



Members of the House exit the Capitol after a House vote on a farm bill, in Washington, July 11, 2013. Republicans muscled a pared-back agriculture bill through the House on Thursday, stripping out the food stamp program to satisfy recalcitrant conservatives but losing what little Democratic support the bill had when it failed last month. From left: Reps. Tim Murphy (R-Pa.), Mark Sanford (R-S.C.), Cathy McMorris Rodgers (R-Wash.), and Sean Duffy (R-Wis.).

(Christopher Gregory/The New York Times)

House approves farm bill, without food stamp program

RON NIXON
JONATHAN WEISMAN
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WASHINGTON - Republicans muscled a pared-back agriculture bill through the House on Thursday, stripping out the food stamp program to satisfy recalcitrant conservatives but losing what little Democratic support the bill had when it failed last month. It was the first time that food stamps had not been a part of the farm bill since 1973. The 216-208 vote saved

House Republican leaders from an embarrassing reprisal of the unexpected defeat of a broader farm bill in June, but the future of agriculture policy remains uncertain. The food stamp program, formerly called the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, was 80 percent of the original bill's cost, and it remains the centerpiece of the Senate's bipartisan farm bill. Even in a chamber used to acrimony, Thursday's debate in the House was par-

ticularly brutal. Democrats repeatedly called for roll-call votes on parliamentary procedures and motions to adjourn, delaying the final vote by hours and charging Republicans over and over again with callousness and cruelty. Republicans shouted protests, tried to silence the most strident Democrats and were repeatedly forced to vote to uphold their own parliamentary rulings. Rep. Frank D. Lucas, R-Okla., the chairman of the

House Agriculture Committee, said he would try to draft a separate food stamp bill "as soon as I can achieve a consensus." But conservatives remain determined to extract deep cuts to the program - cuts that members of both parties in the House and Senate have said they cannot support. House and Senate negotiators could produce a compromise measure with the robust food stamp program the Senate wants, but the bill would almost certainly

have to pass the House with significant Republican defections. Asked if he would allow such a bill to come to a final vote, Speaker John A. Boehner of Ohio shrugged and said: "If ands and buts were candy and nuts, every day would be Christmas. You've heard that before. My goal right now is to get the farm bill passed. We'll get to those other issues later."

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Activists scale London's Shard tower

LONDON (AP) — Six environmental activists scaled Western Europe's tallest building on Thursday to protest drilling in the Arctic by oil companies — and were arrested after reaching the top.

It took the female climbers 15 hours to reach the top of the 310-meter (1,017-foot) tower on the south bank of the River Thames in London.

Once they reached the summit, two of the activists unfurled a flag which read "Save the Arctic."

Shortly after, London police, who had been on the scene since dawn monitoring the situation, said the six protesters were arrested on suspicion of aggravated trespass.

John Sauven, executive director of Greenpeace U.K., said it was an honor to witness their "remarkable achievement" in the name of protecting the Arctic.

Greenpeace said the climbers were from Britain, Canada, Sweden, Poland, the Netherlands and Belgium.

It said the Renzo Piano-designed 72-story Shard had



Greenpeace protesters climb up The Shard, the tallest building in Western Europe, during a protest against the oil company Shell's drilling in the Arctic, Thursday, July 11, 2013.

(AP Photo/Sang Tan)

been chosen because it looms over the London offices of Royal Dutch Shell

PLC, which has drilled for oil in the Arctic Sea off Alaska. The skyscraper, which

opened earlier this year, was kept open throughout the climb. □

Dead Russian lawyer Magnitsky found guilty

JIM HEINTZ
Associated Press

MOSCOW (AP) — More than three years after he died in prison, whistle-blowing Russian lawyer Sergei Magnitsky was found guilty of tax evasion by a Moscow court Wednesday.

The posthumous trial of Magnitsky was a macabre chapter in a case that ignited a high-emotion dispute between Russia and Washington that has included U.S. sanctions against Russians deemed to be human rights violators, a ban on the adoption of Russian children by U.S. citizens and calls for the closure of Russian non-governmental organizations receiving American funding.

Magnitsky was a lawyer for U.S.-born British investor William Browder when

he alleged in 2008 that organized criminals colluded with corrupt Interior Ministry officials to claim a fraudulent \$230 million tax rebate after illegally seizing subsidiaries of Browder's Hermitage Capital investment company. He subsequently was arrested on tax evasion charges and died in prison in November 2009 of untreated pancreatitis at age 37. His death prompted widespread criticism from human rights activists and the presidential human rights council found in 2011 that he had been beaten and deliberately denied medical treatment. Announcing his verdict Thursday, Judge Igor Alishov said "Magnitsky masterminded a massive tax evasion scheme in a ... conspiracy with a group of

people," according to the ITAR-Tass news agency. Browder, a strident critic of the lack of transparency at top Russian companies who has been banned from Russia since 2005 as a security threat, was also found guilty in absentia along with Magnitsky of evading some \$17 million in taxes. He was sentenced to nine years in prison.

"Today's verdict will go down in history as one of the most shameful moments for Russia since the days of Joseph Stalin," Browder said in a statement. "The worst part of today's verdict is the malicious pain that the Russian government is ready to inflict on the grieving family of a man who was killed for standing up to government corruption and police abuse." □

Fearing violence, North Ireland calls for police reinforcements

DOUGLAS DALBY

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DUBLIN - Prompted by mounting fears over the prospect of widespread sectarian rioting this weekend, the Northern Ireland police chief has taken the unusual step of calling in hundreds of reinforcements from Scotland, Wales and England to help local officers.

It is the first time since the British army withdrew from the streets in July 2007 that the authorities have turned to outsiders for policing help.

This weekend is the high point in the Orange Order calendar, during which hundreds of thousands of Protestants take to the streets to celebrate historic victories and display their continued opposition to Irish nationalist aspirations. The "marching season" has often set off violent confrontations, particularly when the marchers, accompanied by flute bands playing martial tunes, have insisted on parading through nationalist areas, where their actions are considered triumphalist.

Announcing the drafting of 630 reinforcements, the police chief, Matt Baggott, branded it "a unique year," based on the sheer volume of marches expected to take place Friday alone, the anniversary of the Battle of the Boyne in 1690, which cemented Protestant rule in Ireland for centuries.

"If you look at the scale - 550 parades; we have 43 that are sensitive - it would be remiss of me not to plan for every eventuality," he said. The 30 units made up of the 630 reinforcements have been trained in anti-riot tactics, and most were deployed in Northern Ireland last month to deter unlawful protests during the summit meeting of the Group of Eight industrialized nations.

The Orange Order argues that the marching routes are traditional, and that any restriction is an infringement on their civil liberties as British citizens. The Pa-

rades Commission, an independent body formed in 1997 with a brief to arbitrate disputes over routes, has faced a nearly impossible task, as every ruling lauded by one side is invariably condemned by the other.

Most of the attention will fall on a march through northern Belfast. In an effort to accommodate both sides, the commission has ruled that this "feeder" parade, on its way to the main gathering south of Belfast city center, can pass through the small Catholic nationalist enclave of Ardoyne but, for the first time, cannot return through the area Friday night.

In recent years, as marchers have returned along that half-mile stretch, furious nationalist residents have thrown Molotov cocktails and other missiles at police officers who formed a human shield to protect the parade. Last year the police also came under gunfire from dissident republicans during the rioting.

The Orange Order condemned the Parades Commission ruling this week and called for the body to be abolished. But the move was welcomed by Catholic residents, who said it would provide breathing space for further dialogue between the two sides before next year's march.

Ardoyne, which is virtually surrounded by Protestant neighborhoods, came to international prominence in 2001 and 2002 when Catholic children were subjected to a campaign of physical and verbal abuse while traveling through Protestant districts to reach Holy Cross Girls Primary School. It has been a constant flash point, and "peace walls" to separate the communities are ubiquitous.

Baggott said the reinforcements would not be deployed in Ardoyne or in other areas where violence could be expected, but this did little to allay the safety concerns of police representatives whose members have been called upon. □

China ready to talk investment treaty with US

M. PENNINGTON
Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — China agreed Thursday to negotiate a bilateral investment treaty with the United States, a move hailed by Washington as a significant step in the Asian giant's economic reforms that could level the playing field for American businesses.

China made the concession during annual U.S.-China security and economic talks in Washington. Commerce Minister Gao Hucheng told reporters that negotiations on substantive parts of a treaty would start "as soon as possible."

The U.S. has been pushing for such a treaty for years, and American businesses had been looking for progress in this week's talks, saying it would facilitate more protections and market access for American investors in China, where state-owned companies enjoy many competitive advantages.

China's new leader, Xi Jinping, who met President Barack Obama last month in California, has signaled he intends to shift toward an economy driven more by domestic consumption and less by exports — changes that would benefit U.S. companies wanted to sell products and services to China's fast-growing middle class.

"A high-standard U.S.-China Bilateral Investment Treaty is a priority for the United States and would work to level the playing field for American workers and businesses by opening markets for fair competition," Treasury Secretary Jacob Lew said in a statement. "The commitment made today stands to be a significant breakthrough and marks the first time China has agreed to negotiate a Bilateral Investment Treaty, to include all sectors and stages of investment, with another country," he said. □

Obama nominee questioned on Clinton, Benghazi

BRADLEY KLAPPER

Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Barack Obama's choice as chief U.S. envoy for Europe defended her role in the talking points created after last year's deadly attack in Benghazi, Libya, at a Senate confirmation hearing Thursday that seemed focused as much on the tragedy as the future presidential prospects of former Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton. Victoria Nuland refused to blame Clinton, for whom she served as spokeswoman when U.S. Ambassador Chris Stevens and three other Americans were killed in the attack on a U.S. diplomatic mission last Sept. 11. Nuland said she objected to some of the administration's talking points in the days after Benghazi because they were inconsistent, inaccurate and risked prejudicing the FBI investigation into those responsible for the attack. No one at the hearing expressed doubt about Nuland's qualifications for the job of assistant secretary of state for Europe — a point a potential Republican opponent of Clinton for the presidency in 2016, Sen. Marco Rubio, conceded. But Nuland's prospects for confirmation appeared tied to how she answered questions on the Benghazi attack, with several Republican senators asking her

why the Obama administration shifted its public explanations of the assault. They also wanted to know why, shortly afterward, the president's former U.N. ambassador and current national security adviser, Susan Rice, blamed it on extremists who hijacked a spontaneous protest

hadists possibly laying siege to the U.S. Embassy in Cairo. In publicly released emails, Nuland, a career foreign service officer who has held senior positions in the George W. Bush and Obama administrations, cited concerns of her "building's leadership." On Thursday, she said she nev-

talking points. I never made changes. I simply said that I thought that policy people needed to look at them.

Rarely is a potential assistant secretary of state expected to expound on such politically sensitive policy issues.

But Nuland has powerful Democratic patrons who at



Victoria Nuland, President Barack Obama's nominee to be Assistant Secretary of State for European and Eurasian Affairs, testifies on Capitol Hill in Washington, Thursday, July 11, 2013, before the Senate Foreign Relations Committee hearing on her nomination. Nuland told panel how she would prioritize trade and democracy. But that may not be what some Republicans want to hear.
(AP Photo/J. Scott Applewhite)

against an anti-Islam video. The consistent question was whether Nuland acted at Clinton's behest when she weighed in on the talking points being prepared for Congress. She sought the removal of references to a Libyan militia group and ji-

er spoke to Clinton about the talking points and had not read any intelligence reports about the attack.

"My responsibilities were to ensure consistency of our public messaging but not to make policy," she said. "So I never edited these

least at one time harbored presidential ambitions — and in Clinton's case, perhaps still. Nuland served as key adviser to Clinton and her successor, Secretary of State John Kerry, both of whom have run for president. □

House approves farm bill, without food stamps

Continued from Front

By splitting farm policy from food stamps, the House effectively ended the decades-old political marriage between urban interests concerned about nutrition and rural areas that depend on farm subsidies. "We wanted separation, and we got it," said Rep. Marlin Stutzman, R-Ind., one of the bill's chief authors. "You've got to take these wins when you can get them." Democrats denounced the bill as a naked attempt to make draconian cuts in the

food stamp program.

"A vote for this bill is a vote to end nutrition in America," said Rep. Rosa DeLauro of Conn.

Sen. Debbie Stabenow of Michigan, the chairwoman of the Senate Agriculture Committee, called the House measure "an insult to rural America."

The 608-page bill keeps changes that were made last month, and amendments were not allowed. The bill would save about \$20 billion by consolidating or cutting numerous farm subsidy programs, including \$5 billion paid annually to farmers and landowners

whether they plant crops or not.

The money saved from eliminating those payments would be directed into the \$9 billion crop insurance program, and new subsidies would be created for peanut, cotton and rice farmers. The bill adds money to support fruit and vegetable growers, and it restores insurance programs for livestock producers, which expired in 2011, leaving thousands of operations without disaster coverage during last year's drought.

The bill also eliminates a dairy program that con-

trols the supply of milk produced and sold in the United States.

The new proposal would also repeal a provision in the current farm bill, called "permanent law" that causes farm programs to revert to 1949 price levels if a new farm bill is not passed. Congress has traditionally maintained the provision to prod Congress into passing a farm bill or face large increases in farm program expenditures. Without the provision, many lawmakers and farm groups fear there would be no incentive for Congress to pass a farm bill on time. □

NTSB reconstructing crew actions shortly before crash

MATTHEW L. WALD
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SAN FRANCISCO - As workers began clearing debris

from a Boeing 777 on a runway here and preparing to repave parts of it Thursday night, five days after Asiana Flight 214 crashed on arrival, the National Transportation Safety Board began a meticulous

reconstruction of the flight crew's inputs into the autopilot and other cockpit automation systems during the flight's final minutes. The crew told investigators in interviews that they believed the autothrottles were on, which would have relieved them of managing the plane's speed and left them with only its altitude and course to manage in the last moments of the flight, along with assorted other settings. But some of the instructions that the crew gave the autopilot might have disabled the autothrottles, experts said. For example, when air traffic controllers told the flight crew to make a broad left turn and descend, the crew could have moved the autopilot into a mode called "flight level change," which is abbreviated on the instrumentation as FLCH and

which U.S. pilots commonly pronounce as "fitch." Americans who fly the 777 say that on their airplanes, in fitch mode, the autothrottle does not work. The safety board has not provided much detail, but Deborah A.P. Hersman, its chairwoman, said investigators needed to "validate" the information they had, meaning reconstruct the state of the cockpit automation. However, she said, when the aircraft was at 7,600 feet, at 11:20:55 a.m., a controller told the crew to turn left and descend to 3,000 feet. "This is the sort of thing they can use automation for," she said.

Autopilots can be programmed to handle turns to a certain compass heading, maintain a rate of climb or descent to a specified altitude, fly at a certain speed or even land. But pilots could specify instructions not physically possible, with combinations of speed and altitude changes, for example. One area of inquiry for the board is exploring the logic of the automated system. There are two broader issues. One, as Hersman pointed out, is that the pilots are supposed to closely monitor what the automated system is doing, or what they think it is doing, including maintenance of airspeed. Another is the possibility of overreliance on technology. Najmedin Meshkati, an engineering professor at the University of Southern California and an expert on human performance, said that pilots' reliance on technology leads to atrophy of critical flying skills, "just like muscle atrophy." The airport was operating the runway on visual flight rules, because part of the instrument landing system was out of service for construction work on the runway, and the crew, accustomed to automated landings, evidently had trouble with a manual one. Some degree of automation is essential in planes that fly for 10 or 12 hours, or even more. □



Deborah Hersman, the National Transportation Safety Board chairman, during a news conference about the Asiana Airlines flight crash investigation in San Francisco.
(Jim Wilson/The New York Times)

Dems poised to limit filibusters, angering GOP

JEREMY W. PETERS
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WASHINGTON - The Senate on Thursday moved toward a potentially historic vote to limit filibusters as Sen. Harry Reid of Nevada, the majority leader, set in motion a series of votes on President Barack Obama's nominees to bring to a head a long-running fight with Republicans. Reid said he was acting because Republicans had routinely abused Senate rules to try to prevent Obama from picking the people he wanted to lead federal agencies. In a tense exchange on the Senate floor, Sen. Mitch McConnell of Kentucky, the Republican leader, accused Reid of breaking his word on rule changes and of manufacturing a crisis in a blatant power grab. Reid said he would back away from an effort to change the rules if Republicans allowed simple majority votes on seven pending nominees, including those for the Labor Department, the Environmental Protection Agency, a consumer protection agency and the National Labor Relations Board. If

not, he said, he would try to force through a rule change next week. "The American people are really fed up with the

Democratic senators supported, would not affect filibusters of legislation or judicial nominees. But it would prevent Republicans from

crats have been searching for a way to avert the rule change, which is so controversial that it is nicknamed "the nuclear option." Any



Sen. Carl Levin (D-Mich.) speaks to reporters after weekly luncheons on Capitol Hill in Washington, July 11, 2013. A confrontation in the Senate between Republicans and Democrats over the confirmation of President Barack Obama's cabinet nominees edged closer on Thursday toward a showdown over changing the rules on filibusters.

(Christopher Gregory/The New York Times)

gridlock, fed up with obstruction and fed up with politics as usual," Reid said. "They want Washington to work again." The step that Reid has endorsed, which he said all but two or three

being able to require a supermajority of 60 votes for the confirmation of people the president appointed to cabinet-level posts or other executive branch positions. Republicans and Demo-

altering of the long-held Senate custom of the filibuster would be rare and, some argue, perilous as one year's majority party could be the next year's minority. □

Unrest warned as US teen's murder trial nears end

SANFORD, Florida (AP) — Police prepared for possible protests or even violence as a high-profile U.S. trial in the murder of an unarmed black teen neared its end Thursday.

community, where Martin was visiting family. Zimmerman says Martin was slamming his head into the concrete pavement when he fired his gun. The case drew national at-

Friday morning. Prosecutors have portrayed Zimmerman, who identifies himself as Hispanic, as an aspiring police officer who assumed Martin was up to no good

larly in African-American neighborhoods where passions run strongest over the case. "It's all right to be vocal, but we don't want to be violent," said the Rev. Walter T. Richardson, a longtime pastor and chairman of Miami-Dade County's Community Relations Board. "We've already lost one soul and we don't want to lose any more." The situation is especially sensitive in Miami, where deadly rioting occurred in 1980 in mostly-black neighborhoods after four white police officers were acquitted in the beating death of a black Marine Corps veteran during a stop for a traffic violation. The Miami-Dade Police Department's intelligence operation has been comb-

ing social media to monitor signs of unusual interest in Zimmerman's trial. The judge has ruled that jurors can consider a lesser charge of manslaughter for Zimmerman. But because of the way Florida law imposes longer sentences for crimes committed with a gun, manslaughter could end up carrying a penalty as heavy as the one for second-degree murder: life in prison. To win a second-degree murder conviction, prosecutors must prove Zimmerman showed ill will, hatred or spite — a burden the defense has argued the state failed to meet. To get a manslaughter conviction, prosecutors must show only that Zimmerman killed without lawful justification. □



Members of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference, from left, Rev. Levy Wilcox, Rev R.L. Gundy, SCLC state president, Rev. Jake Stovall, SCLC Orlando, Fla. chairman and SCLC member Jerry West, speak at a news conference appealing for calm in response to the verdict in the trial of George Zimmerman at the Seminole County Courthouse, Thursday, July 11, 2013, in Sanford, Fla. Zimmerman has been charged with second-degree murder for the 2012 shooting death of Trayvon Martin.

(AP Photo/John Raoux)

Neighborhood watch volunteer George Zimmerman has pleaded not guilty in the shooting of 17-year-old Trayvon Martin, saying he fired in self-defense during a nighttime confrontation in February 2012 in his Florida gated

tention and protests when Zimmerman, 29, wasn't arrested for weeks after the shooting, and racial tensions have been exposed. Jurors could begin deliberating as early as Friday. The defense was expected to give closing arguments

and took the law into his own hands. As their closing arguments continued Thursday, police and city leaders in Florida said they have prepared for the possibility of mass protests or even civil unrest if Zimmerman is acquitted, particu-

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Saudi princess charged with US human trafficking

AMY TAXIN

Associated Press

SANTA ANA, California

(AP) — Arraignment of a Saudi princess on a charge of human trafficking in the U.S. has been postponed. Meshael Alayban, 42, appeared in Orange County Superior Court on Thursday, but her attorney requested a delay and the judge re-scheduled the hearing to July 29.

If convicted, Alayban faces a maximum sentence of 12 years, said Orange County District Attorney Tony Rackauckas.

Alayban was arrested after a 30-year-old domestic worker from Kenya alleged she was forced to work excessive hours and was not allowed to leave. The worker said she was hired in Kenya in 2012 and taken to Saudi Arabia, where her passport was taken from her.

The worker's name was not released. The woman told authorities she was forced to work excessive hours, was paid less than promised and was not allowed to leave.



Authorities said the woman had signed a two-year contract with an employment agency guaranteeing she would be paid \$1,600 a month to work eight hours a day, five days a week. But starting in March 2012, she was forced to cook, clean and do other household chores for 16 hours a day, seven days a week, and was paid only \$220 a month, prosecutors said. She was allowed to have a passport only long enough to enter the U.S., prosecutors said.

A judge set Alayban's bail at \$5 million, ordered GPS

monitoring and banned her from leaving the country without authorization.

Alayban's attorney, Paul Meyer, said the case was a contractual dispute and argued his client shouldn't be assigned a ransom-like bail solely because she was rich.

Four other workers from the Philippines left the condominium voluntarily after authorities arrived. No charges have been filed related to those women, and police said there were no signs any of the workers had been physically abused. □

Saudi princess Meshael Alayban, right, listens to an interpreter during her scheduled appearance in court Thursday July 11, 2013 in Santa Ana, Calif. Alayban appeared in Orange County Superior Court Thursday but her arraignment was delayed to July 29 at the request of her attorney. Alayban, 42, was charged Wednesday with human trafficking and accused of holding a domestic worker from Kenya against her will.

(AP Photo/Nick Ut)

DNA links Desalvo to Boston Strangler victim

JESS BIDGOOD

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BOSTON - Boston police said Thursday that they had linked DNA from the

man believed to have been the Boston Strangler to seminal fluid found on a 19-year-old woman who has long been thought to

have been his final murder victim nearly 50 years ago. The strangler is believed to have killed 11 women in the early 1960s, terrorizing the Boston area for 20 tense months as he hunted women who ranged in age from 19 to 85 years old. The fear that gripped the city was heightened because most of the victims had been sexually assaulted and killed in their own homes. Some women are said to have moved away from the city out of fear. On Thursday, authorities announced that they had recently tested seminal fluid that had been found on the body of Mary Sullivan, who was sexually assaulted and strangled to death in January 1964, and had found a near certain match with Albert DeSalvo, the man who confessed to the Boston Strangler murders but was never convicted of the crimes.

DeSalvo was stabbed to death at the Massachusetts Correctional Institution - Walpole, in 1973. (The prison is now called the Massachusetts Correctional Institution - Cedar Junction.) He was serving a life sentence for rape and

other crimes.

The DNA samples taken from Sullivan's body and a blanket in her Charles Street home, which authorities have saved for nearly five decades, match DNA collected from a water bottle used recently by a nephew of DeSalvo, authorities said. A Superior Court judge has granted permission to exhume DeSalvo's body to determine a more conclusive link. The exhumation could occur as soon as this week.

"There was no forensic evidence to link Albert DeSalvo to Mary Sullivan's murder until today," said Daniel F. Conley, the Suffolk County district attorney, at a news conference Thursday in which the findings were announced.

Even if there is a DNA match however, doubts will remain about whether DeSalvo was in fact the Boston Strangler - or just one of several people who committed the murders - because of inconsistencies in his confession.

Casey Sherman, Sullivan's nephew, said that the new evidence "provides an incredible amount of closure." □



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US Financial Front:

US government reports \$116.5 billion surplus in June



Photo shows the entrance of the U.S. Treasury Department in Washington, D.C. The Treasury on Thursday reported a rare surplus of \$116.5 billion in June, the largest for a single month in five years.

(AP Photo)

MARTIN CRUTSINGER
AP Economics Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — The federal government on Thursday reported a rare surplus of \$116.5 billion in June, the largest for a single month in five years. The gain kept the U.S. on track for its lowest annual deficit in five years.

The June surplus was due in part to \$66.3 billion in dividend payments from Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac. The mortgage giants were taken over by the government at the height of the 2008 financial crisis and are now repaying taxpayers for the support they received. Through the first eight months of the budget year, the deficit has totaled \$509.8 billion, according to the Treasury. That's nearly \$400 billion lower than the same period last year.

The Congressional Budget Office forecasts the annual deficit will be \$670 billion when the budget year ends on Sept. 30. If correct, that would be well below

last year's deficit of \$1.09 trillion and the lowest since President Barack Obama took office. It would still be the fifth-largest deficit in U.S. history.

The Obama administration also estimates a lower annual deficit, although it projects a slightly higher figure of \$759 billion.

Steady economic growth and higher tax rates have boosted the government's tax revenue this year. At the same time, government spending has fallen. The dividend payments from Fannie and Freddie have also helped.

The government has collected \$2.09 trillion in revenue so far this budget year, according to the June report. That's 14 percent more than the first eight months of the previous budget year.

It has spent \$2.6 trillion so far, or nearly 5 percent less than the same stretch last year. The decline partly reflects the impact of the automatic spending cuts

that began in March. Defense spending is down 7 percent. A better job market has also helped lower spending for unemployment benefits almost 25 percent.

Interest payments on debt are 4 percent lower than the same period last year. The improvement reflects the break the government is getting from record-low interest rates. But those payments will rise in coming years as the Federal Reserve allows interest rates to return to more normal levels.

The federal deficit represents the annual difference between the government's spending and the tax revenues it takes in. Each deficit contributes to the national

debt, currently \$16.7 trillion. The improving deficit picture has taken pressure off negotiations to raise the federal borrowing limit, although that battle is likely to resurface in the fall. Obama has remained at odds with Republicans over cutting benefit programs and imposing further tax increases.

The deficit reached a record \$1.41 trillion in budget year 2009, which began four months before Obama took office. The Obama administration was forced to deal with a severe economic downturn that reduced revenues and boosted government spending in such areas as unemployment benefits and food stamps. □

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Egypt's liberals pressing for democracy after coup

SARAH EL DEEB
Associated Press

CAIRO (AP) — The liberal and youth movements that backed the military's removal of Islamist President Mohammed Morsi are now pushing to ensure their calls for change are heard in the face of the generals' strong grip on the new leadership. At stake is the hope that the Arab world's most populous nation will emerge from more than two years of turmoil as a democracy. Morsi's removal brought a wave of celebration after millions nationwide joined four days of protests last week demanding his removal. But that is giving way to a harder reality for the democracy advocates who organized the protests —including many of the same movements that led the uprising that toppled autocrat Hosni

Mubarak in 2011 then opposed the military's subsequent 17-month rule. Many are wary of the military's influence and skeptical that it backs their reform agenda and insist they must not become a liberal facade. But they are also under heavy pressure to keep unity within the military-backed leadership: The charged nationalist, pro-army atmosphere that has swept the country has little tolerance for breaking ranks at a time when Islamists continue protests demanding the return of Morsi. Earlier this week, the head of the military issued a sharply worded statement that reinforced that message, warning political factions against "maneuvering" that holds up progress. The strategy of the revolutionary groups — an array of leftist, secular and liberal movements — is to

push hard for figures they trust to take the top spots

in the new government being constructed that will

run the country, probably until early next year. □



Egyptian army soldiers stand guard on their armored personnel carriers near the presidential palace, in Cairo, Egypt, Thursday, July 11, 2013. Egypt's Muslim Brotherhood vowed Thursday not to back down in its push to restore ousted Islamist leader Mohammed Morsi to power but insisted its resistance is peaceful in an effort to distance itself from more than a week of clashes with security forces.
(AP Photo/Hussein Malla)

Opposition coalition condemns Syrian rebel blockade

ALBERT ZEINA KARAM
Associated Press

DAMASCUS, Syria (AP) — Syria's main opposition coalition Thursday condemned a rebel blockade of government-held districts in the contested northern city of Aleppo, issuing a rare statement of criticism against fighters who reportedly caused severe food shortages at the start of the Muslim holy

AJI

month of Ramadan. Residents of the Bustan al-Qasr neighborhood staged protests against the blockade by Islamic militant rebels, according to activists and a video posted to YouTube on Tuesday. The demonstration was one of three reported in Aleppo province in recent days against alleged abuses by al-Qaida-affiliated fighters, suggesting growing discontent in rebel ar-

reas toward the hard-line factions that are among the most organized of the rebel groups fighting President Bashar Assad. "The people want to break the siege!" the residents shouted angrily during a demonstration at a checkpoint. The video appeared genuine and corresponded to other Associated Press reporting on Aleppo. The checkpoint known as Garage al-Hajz is the only

link between rebel-held eastern districts of Aleppo and western districts controlled by the government. It was reportedly seized and closed several days ago by non-Syrian fighters from the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant, a merger of al-Qaida's branches in Iraq and Syria. Rami Abdul-Rahman, director of the Syrian Observatory for Human Rights, said the fighters banned the transport of goods through the crossing to besieged regime-held neighborhoods of Aleppo, leading to shortages of food including baby milk and bread. He said that the checkpoint was reopened Thursday based on an order from the Sharia Council of Aleppo, the Islamic court

governing rebel-held parts of the city. The main Western-backed opposition group issued a statement criticizing the siege and urging all rebel units "to help lift the siege imposed by groups not committed to protecting civilians, guaranteeing freedom of movement and facilitating the movement of staple foods to all areas." Protecting civilians in liberated areas as well as those under Assad's control and providing them with basic needs and ensuring their safety "are top priorities of the revolution," said the statement by the Syrian National Coalition. The group has previously criticized acts by various factions in the splintered rebel movement, but not frequently. □

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'Day of Struggle' sees thousands on strike in Brazil

STAN LEHMAN

Associated Press

SAO PAULO (AP) — Tens of thousands of workers across Brazil walked off their jobs on Thursday in a mostly peaceful nationwide strike demanding bet-

About 2,500 strikers marched in Rio de Janeiro, where some clashed with police, who unleashed tear gas and rubber bullets in response to a few protesters hurling rocks at them. By nightfall, protesters were

lowed access to ATMs. In Sao Paulo, about 5,000 people rallied along Avenida Paulista one of the city's main thoroughfares, with banners demanding a shorter work week, better working conditions and af-

bus and train workers "weakened the day of struggle," Joao Carlos Goncalves, secretary general of trade union federation Union Force, told the Agencia Estado news agency. "But nevertheless we have mobilized the workers and called attention to our demands, which was what we wanted to achieve," he added.

The strikers are demanding better public transit, health and education services as well as agriculture reform and a reduced work week. The strike follows mass

nationwide protests that swept Brazil last month when demonstrators angered with corruption, poor public services and a heavy tax burden took to the streets.

The protests also denounced the billions of dollars spent to host the World Cup and the 2016 Olympics in Rio, money they say should be going toward better hospitals, schools and transportation.

However, last month's protests were more energetic and there were more violent clashes with police. □



A demonstrator, wearing a mask in the likeness of Brazil's President Dilma Rousseff, sits in the driver's seat of a bus during a protest in front of the Planalto presidential palace in Brasilia, Brazil, Thursday, July 11, 2013.

(AP Photo/Eraldo Peres)

ter working conditions and improved public services in Latin America's biggest nation.

Metalworkers, transportation and construction workers as well as teachers and civil servants adhered to the "Day of Struggle" organized by Brazil's biggest trade unions.

Strikers either partially or completely blocked 80 interstate and intercity highways in 18 states.

still gathered in Rio's center area, and scattered skirmishes with police were reported. There was no word on injuries. In the city of Santos, dock workers prevented trucks from entering Latin America's biggest port. Striking stevedores also blocked access to ports in another six states. Some banks located in areas where protesters were expected to stage large rallies closed down but al-

fordable housing.

Teachers at public and private schools also went on strike and closed schools in several cities, while some hospitals were operating with skeleton crews. However, subway, bus and train workers in Sao Paulo, Rio de Janeiro and other state capitals did not join the strike, and transportation services were functioning normally.

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Iraq attacks leave 31 dead, mostly security forces

ADAM SCHRECK
Q. ABDUL-ZAHRA
Associated Press

BAGHDAD (AP) — Insurgents in Iraq launched two days of bloody assaults at the start of the Muslim holy month of Ramadan that killed at least 31 people, most of them members of

since the start of April. The months-long eruption of violence — Iraq's worst in half a decade — is raising fears the country is again returning to the brink of a civil war pitting its Sunni and Shiite Muslim sects against one another. The deadliest attack

ing. Gunmen launched their assault on an army check-point near Barwana, which lies across the Euphrates River from the town of Haditha, about 220 kilometers (140 miles) northwest of Baghdad in the largely Sunni province of Anbar.

the iftar meal that breaks the daytime Ramadan fast at sunset, Abdul-Mohsin said.

The gunmen shot up the trailer and then set it on fire before making their getaway, the mayor said. Eleven police there were left dead, with some of their bodies badly burned and making them difficult to identify, he said.

A security official in nearby Haditha gave a similar account and confirmed the death toll. He spoke on condition of anonymity because he was not authorized to release the information.

"This is a crime carried out by terrorists during iftar on the first day of Ramadan," Abdul-Mohsin said. "It just proves what a cowardly act it is."

Exxon Mobil Corp., BP PLC and other international oil companies have flocked to Iraq since the 2003 U.S.-led invasion to capitalize on Iraq's vast oil wealth. The country is now the second-largest producer in OPEC, after Saudi Arabia. Oil revenues account for 95 percent of the country's budget.

Insurgents unleashed more attacks Thursday.

A police station in Anbar's provincial capital Ramadi came under attack in the morning in an assault that left two policemen dead, provincial council member

councilman Talib Hamadi and deputy provincial governor Dhari Arkan said. Arkan said gunmen opened fire on the police station after a car bomb exploded nearby. Ramadi is 115 kilometers (70 miles) west of Baghdad.

Militants turned their sights on the local police headquarters in the nearby city of Fallujah, also in Anbar province, later in the day.

A car bomb explosion kicked off that attack. Then gunmen exchanged fire with police as other militants launched mortar rounds at the facility. Another attacker then drove an explosives-laden car into the police post.

By the time it was all over, seven police officers were killed and 17 other people were wounded, all but two of them police, according to police and hospital officials. A roadside bomb later exploded in central Fallujah, killing a police officer and wounding two others.

Anbar is a vast Sunni-dominated province west of Baghdad and bordering Syria. It has been the center of months of protests by Iraq's minority Sunnis over what they believe is second-class treatment by the Shiite-dominated government. Sunni militant groups have tried to tap into that anger and link their cause with that of the protesters. □



A man inspects the aftermath of a car bomb attack in Baghdad, Iraq. Insurgents launched two days of bloody assaults at the start of the Muslim holy month of Ramadan that killed at least 31 people.
(AP Photo/ Karim kadim)

the security forces serving in restive Sunni-dominated areas, authorities said Thursday. The killings are the latest in a wave of bloodshed that has claimed the lives of more than 2,600 people

happened at sundown Wednesday as Iraqis were marking the end of the first day of Ramadan fasting, though it took authorities time to learn of the killing and they only provided details the following morn-

Barwana's mayor, Meyasser Abdul-Mohsin, said three soldiers were killed and four were wounded in that attack.

The attackers then made their way to a trailer not far away that is used by special oil industry police assigned to protect a nearby pipeline. The men inside were sitting down to have

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'Dead' candidate elected in south Mexico village



In this June 4, 2013 photo, Lenin Carballido poses for a portrait during his campaign in Oaxaca, Mexico. Mexican prosecutors are investigating how Carballido, certified as dead, was elected mayor of a village in southern Mexico.

(AP Photo/Luis Alberto Hernandez)

MARK STEVENSON
Associated Press

MEXICO CITY (AP) — Prosecutors are investigating how a man certified as dead got elected mayor of a village in southern Mexico. Authorities say relatives of Lenin Carballido used a death certificate showing that he died of a diabetic coma in 2010 to convince police to drop an arrest warrant against him for allegedly participating in a 2004 gang rape.

A living Carballido later ran in, and narrowly won, Sunday's election in San Agustín Amatengo in Oaxaca state. In his campaign, he

posted photos of himself all around the village of 1,400 residents, with slogans like "A Real Change" and "United for Development." But shortly after his victory, the death certificate surfaced with his full name of Leninguer Carballido. Officials in Oaxaca said Thursday that the certificate had been drawn up and signed by a public registry official, but that the information had been faked. Carballido's party, the leftist Democratic Revolution Party, known as the PRD, said it had been fooled by the candidate. "When he registered as a

candidate, he presented all his paperwork, his birth certificate, a letter stating he had no criminal record," said Rey Morales, the state leader of the PRD. "He fooled the prosecutors office, he fooled the office of records, he fooled electoral officials."

"If all this is true, he cannot take office as mayor," said Morales.

Haydee Reyes Soto, the director of the Oaxaca

public records office, said the registry official who drew up the fake death certificate used a real official form, signed it and stamped it with an official seal, and even listed it under a file number used to record a real death.

"The form is real, what is false is the information," Reyes Soto said, adding "the decision has already been made to fire" the official, Abel de la Rosa San-

tos, who is also being questioned by prosecutors.

According to records, a woman accused of Carballido and four other men of having raped her in Oaxaca city in 2004.

Mayra Ricardez, spokeswoman for the Oaxaca state prosecutors' office, said the arrest warrant against Carballido was "never served, because his family showed officers a false death certificate." □

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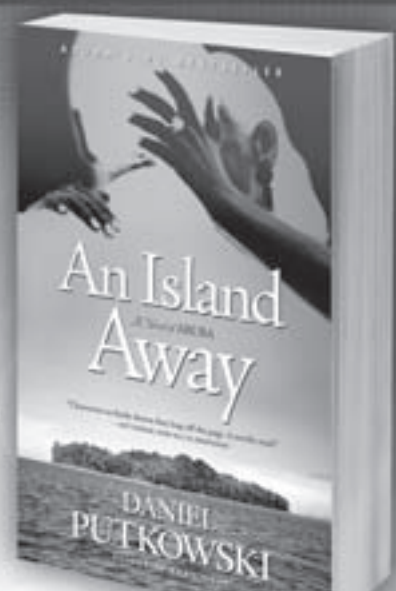
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Cuba economy czar: Reforms entering critical phase

ANDREA RODRIGUEZ

Associated Press

HAVANA (AP) — Communist-led Cuba's experiment with limited capitalism is entering a crucial and transformative phase this year with the decentralization of bloated state-run businesses, the island's economic czar said Tuesday.

Marino Murillo said the goal is to improve efficiency of those businesses and let the successful ones keep more of their profits.

Murillo said the next 18 months will be the "most complex" part of President Raul Castro's reform program, which has already seen limited openings to private entrepreneurship and a relaxation of many social restrictions.

"The first stage of the reforms has so far, fundamentally, been the elimination of prohibitions in society," Murillo said in just his second face-to-face encounter with foreign journalists since he rose to prominence three years ago.

"During what remains of the year 2013 and in 2014, we will work on ... the most profound transformations," he added.

Castro's economic and social reforms, which began

in 2010, aim to resuscitate a flagging economy with a smattering of free-market principles, though officials insist that a wholesale embrace of capitalism is not planned. After five decades of a state-dominated economy, hundreds of thousands of people have legally gone into business for themselves, private farmers are cultivating land with the government's blessing and dozens of independent nonagricultural cooperatives were launched recently under a pilot program.

Authorities have also ap-

proved home and used car sales, eased travel restrictions and established mortgages and small-business credits.

Outside analysts have questioned the scope and pace of the reforms, saying so far they have been insufficient to turn around the economy and attract foreign investment. In a speech over the weekend, Castro himself acknowledged that most Cubans have yet to feel the benefits of a slowly growing economy.

Murillo did not give many details about the next

stage of the reforms, such as which companies will be decentralized and what will happen to those that fail. An effort to give more autonomy to the sugar industry in 2012 that included new leadership and a restructuring of the once-powerful Sugar Ministry has yet to result in improved harvests. Murillo said the changes contemplated over the coming months include letting state enterprises keep up to 50 percent of revenue to reinvest. Currently all earnings go to the government, which controls all spending and distributes resources to successful and failing enterprises alike. "We must remove all impediments that put the brakes on possibilities," Murillo said.

He acknowledged the island must attract more foreign investment, but insisted that Cuba will do so on its own terms and will not accept business proposals that don't contribute to the island in the way of technology, financing or employment.

While some economists have argued that Cuba is in desperate need of an injection of capital, Murillo insisted foreign investment is

merely "a complement" to the country's plan for economic development.

Cuba does not have access to international capital markets, and U.S. economic sanctions in place since the 1960s freeze it out of some potential lending sources.

However, the country has grown closer to countries such as China and Venezuela and has received soft credits particularly from the latter, which supplies enough oil to meet half of the island's consumption at highly preferential terms. Later Tuesday, Labor Ministry spokesman Carlos Mateu told reporters that a plan to eliminate a half-million workers from bloated state payrolls, announced by Castro in 2010, did not turn out as expected.

Mateu said that instead there was a kind of realignment of labor, with many workers leaving government jobs to open or work for small businesses. In other cases, redundant state workers were transferred to posts where there was more of a need.

"We realized that a phenomenon of movement was occurring in the labor force," Mateu said.

He added that 429,000 Cubans are now licensed as independent workers.

The government remains by far the largest employer, accounting for 77 percent of jobs among the island's 5 million-strong workforce.

The other 23 percent comprises private entrepreneurs, their employers, independent farmers and cooperatives. □



In this photo, tourists pose for a photo with a classic American car in Havana, Cuba. Cuba's experiment with limited capitalism is entering a crucial and transformative phase this year, the island's economic czar said Tuesday. Tourism remains an important part of Cuba's economy.

(AP Photo/Franklin Reyes)

Guyana to stop sharing anti-trafficking efforts

GEORGETOWN, Guyana (AP) — Guyana's national security minister says the government of the South American country will no longer provide U.S. authorities with information on anti-trafficking efforts.

Clement Rohee says a re-

cent U.S. State Department human trafficking report that criticized Guyana is inaccurate and ignores local efforts to crack down on the problem.

He said late Wednesday that officials will stop completing and returning ques-

tionnaires to U.S. authorities. His announcement comes a month after the U.S. criticized Guyana for allowing girls and foreign women to be forced into prostitution and for relying on child labor.

The report accused Guy-

ana of not doing enough to protect victims or hold trafficking suspects accountable.

Police Chief Leroy Brummel recently said two officers accused of raping two girls rescued from prostitution have been arrested. □



Alhambra Casino welcomes happy elderly groups!



PUNTA BRABO: During the past week Alhambra Casino received the visit from many elderly groups

on the island. The first visit was from St. Michael Paviljoen and SABA with about 35 members and leader

of the group Mrs. Maria Croes. Staff y personnel of Alhambra Casino congratulates and appreciate all the hard workers from St. Michael and SABA for the excellent job caring for our elderly.

The next day Alhambra hosts the second group, Flor Di Brazil, with 85 members and their leader Mr. Hendrick Quandt.

They have been visiting Alhambra Casino for many years and keep coming here to spend a wonderful time. The third group is Flor di Violeta, which consists of around 60 people, under the leadership to the dynamic Mrs. Rita Paskel. This group also visits Alhambra regularly and promise to come back. All groups were welcome by Mrs. Annie Dirksz, Marketing and Players Club Manager and Mr. Oscar van de L'Isle, Food & Beverage Manager. The happy personnel of Alhambra served cake, drigidek, pastechi, coffee, tea and juice to the groups.

Our elderly people are those who worked hard to build this island and now it



is their turn to see the fruits of their hard work, socializing with friends and members of the group. Alham-

bra Casino is more than happy to serve the elderly groups and is always ready for future visits. □



Jackpots at the Casino at the Radisson keep guests happy!



PALM BEACH - Sal Petraccione from Middle Village, NY, cashed \$1,075.80 before lunch this past weekend, while Francisco Fidalpo, from Argentina, won \$ 1,027 on Caribbean Stud Poker, showing a straight flush 8-9-10-J-Q with a buy-card option.

The Casino at the Radisson is the only Casino on the Island offering its players this option, for

more chances to win. Visit the Casino at the Radisson this week, for more fun and more winning opportunities.

During the month of July Cash Madness is played every Wednesday showering patrons with \$1,000 in cash prizes in hourly drawings, starting at 7pm.

This coming Friday, you are invited to partici-



pate in the Freeze Out Poker Tournament, Buy-in \$100+\$20, and receive \$10,000 in tournament chips! Sign up at 7:30pm, and the tournament starts at 8pm. The tournament awards extra prizes on July 12th, such as a weekend stay, dinner for two at the Sunset Grille or brunch for two at Laguna restaurant, PLUS Cash Prizes! Don't miss Friday's Freeze Out Poker Tournament! □

Aruba Hi-Winds participants show big heart in helping a little boy

FISHERMEN'S HUTS - The tough ocean warriors of the Aruba Hi-Winds 2013 showed their softer side

during the awards ceremony of the fabulous windsurfing and kiting event last Monday evening, when

the bidding started of a fundraising auction to help a little boy in Curaçao. In the Paseo Herencia mall,

where the presentation took place, things quieted down considerably when master of ceremony Evert Bongers announced that a bicycle and a windsurfing board would be auctioned off to raise funds for the cancer treatment of 9 year-old Theo, who needs to fly to St. Thomas urgently for medical reasons. The bicycle was a



donation of Fiberworks Aruba Surfshop; the board came from American Hi-Winds participant Myles Borash. Both items generated quite some money; the total of \$ 1,600 will surely help little Theo. The first step towards donating to a good cause was taken by Rob Douglas, world champion speed kiting. He chose to divide his prize money between two charities: one for the animals in need on Aruba and the other one for Theo. Rob learned about Theo's sad case through Bonaire's free-style hero Taty Frans, who met Theo in Curaçao

and vowed to teach him windsurfing and help find funds. The ball started rolling from there and the Hi-Winds organization has also added to the amount that will be donated. The proceeds of the sales of club shirts will also be donated by the Windracers Club Aruba (WRCA).

After the windsurfing board had been auctioned off, the board took flight: a gust of wind took it down the steps of the Paseo amphitheater; the resulting gash will be repaired before the happy owner can take his board on the plane. Yes, that's Aruba too! □

Beauty On The Beach

Kenna and Carolina Armstrong

Kenna and Caroline are with their parents on vacation in Aruba, it is their first visit to the island. They are staying at Hyatt Regency Aruba. What they love the most of Aruba are the beaches.

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HBO and Setar bring Video On Demand service to Aruba



-The telecommunications company is the first on the island to offer SVOD service

ORANJESTAD/MIAMI - Beginning Tuesday, July

offer the service. HBO On Demand offers a selection of the best programming by HBO, free to those already subscribed to the HBO & MAX Premium package. Subscrib-

forward or rewind with their remote control. "The launch of HBO On Demand with Setar is remarkable because we are giving subscribers the opportunity to view their favorite HBO content at their convenience," said Javier Figueras, Corporate Vice President of Affiliate Sales for HBO Latin America. "Viewers will have access to complete seasons of HBO original productions such as True Blood, The Newsroom, Veep and Vice, as well as blockbuster films including Wrath of the Titans, Looper, Resi-

dent Evil: Retribution, and Men in Black 3, to name a few."

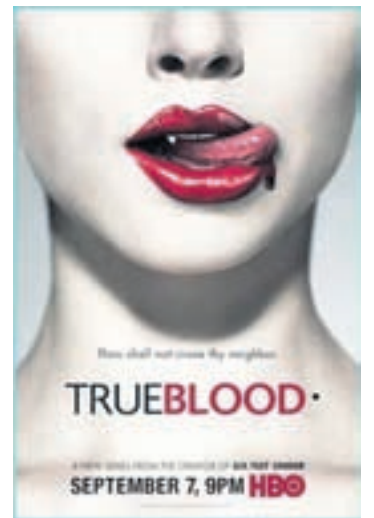
"Nowadays, people are living more in a rush, which makes it difficult to keep up with schedules.

With HBO On Demand, people have control of their programs.

They choose when and what to watch," said Susana Maduro, Corporate Communications Officer of SETAR. "SETAR is always focusing on innovation, so we are very proud to be able to offer this service to our Digital Cable customers."

HBO On Demand does not have an additional cost for subscribers of Setar's HBO & MAX Premium package. The content is updated every week, adding more episodes and seasons of different series, new movies, documentaries, and much more.

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leading cable and satellite programming services in Latin America, Brazil and the Caribbean, including HBO, HBO2, HBO Signature, HBO Plus, HBO Family, HBO HD, HBO Caribbean, HBO On Demand, HBO GO, Cinemax, MAX, MaxPrime, MAX HD, A&E, AXN, E! Entertainment Television, Sony Entertainment Television, Spin, The Biography Channel, The



2nd, Setar's subscribers in Aruba who currently have the HBO & MAX Premium package now have access to SVOD (subscription video on demand) service as an added value to their subscription.

The telecommunication provider partnered with HBO Latin America to offer its premium subscribers access to its new SVOD service, HBO On Demand, making it the first cable operator on the island to

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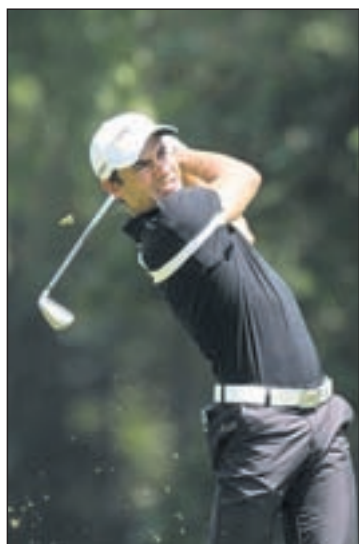
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Camilo Villegas hits his second shot on the 18th hole during the John Deere Classic golf tournament's pro-am in Silvis, Ill., Thursday, July 11, 2013.

Associated Press

Johnson shares lead at John Deere Classic

LUKE MEREDITH
AP Sports Writer

SILVIS, Illinois (AP) — Defending champion Zach Johnson shot a 7-under 64 to share the lead with Camilo Villegas after Thursday's opening round of the John Deere Classic.

It was the 17th straight round in the 60s at TPC Deere Run for Johnson, who grew up in nearby Cedar Rapids, Iowa.

Matt Bettencourt made the field as a late alternate and shot a 6-under 65 to hold a share of third spot with Daniel Summerhays and Brendon de Jonge.

Boo Weekley is among a pack of players at 5-under 66, while three-time tournament champion Steve Stricker is at 4-under 67 heading into Friday's second round.

Johnson, who was second in 2009 and third in 2011 before winning last year, avoided bogeys while picking up birdies on five par-4s on Thursday.

"It just feels so natural now," Johnson said. □

AL Capsules

Benoit, Tigers beat White Sox 8-5



Detroit Tigers' Prince Fielder singles to left field and drives in Torii Hunter from second during sixth inning of a baseball game against the Chicago White Sox in Detroit, Wednesday, July 10, 2013.

Associated Press

DETROIT (AP) — Prince Fielder homered and Rick Porcello pitched six solid innings as the Detroit Tigers bounced back Wednesday night with an 8-5 victory over the Chicago White Sox.

Detroit allowed 23 hits in an 11-4 loss to the White Sox on Tuesday, but it was the Tigers who did the slugging

early on in this game. Fielder lined a two-run shot to right field in the first inning for his 16th homer.

Conor Gillaspie and Gordon Beckham homered for Chicago.

Porcello (6-6) allowed three runs and seven hits. Joaquin Benoit pitched the ninth for his eighth save in eight chances.

Dylan Axelrod (3-6) allowed seven runs and 11 hits in 5 2-3 innings. Fielder, Miguel Cabrera and Victor Martinez had three hits each for the AL Central leaders. Cabrera's run-scoring single in the sixth pushed his major league-leading RBI total to 93.

Chicago's Alex Rios was hitless a night after going 6

for 6.

ORIOLES 6, RANGERS 1

BALTIMORE (AP) — Wei-Yin Chen returned from the disabled list to pitch seven innings of three-hit ball, and the Baltimore Orioles got a three-run homer from Nolan Reimold in a victory over Texas.

Manny Machado had three hits and an RBI for the Orioles, who won for only the third time in nine games.

Chen (4-3) had not pitched since May 12 because of a strained right oblique. The left-hander allowed one run, walked three and struck out four.

Major league home run leader Chris Davis went 0 for 3 with a walk and is hitless in his last 17 at-bats. He hasn't gotten a hit since Major League Baseball announced he was the leading vote getter in All-Star fan balloting.

Reimold homered off Josh Lindblom (1-3).

YANKEES 8, ROYALS 1

NEW YORK (AP) — Robinson Cano hit a three-run homer and Lyle Overbay added a grand slam to help the New York Yankees beat Kansas City.

Ivan Nova (4-2) delivered another impressive pitching performance and the Yankees, held to one run each of the previous three days, stopped a three-game slide. They watched two more players get banged up, though, when slumping Travis Hafner and speedy Brett Gardner left with injuries.

Hafner came out with a bruised left foot, while Gardner departed with a bruised right leg after getting hit by a pitch. The team said X-rays on both were negative and they were day to day. □

Devils star Ilya Kovalchuk retires from NHL

TOM CANAVAN

AP Sports Writer

NEWARK, New Jersey (AP) —

Superstar forward Ilya Kovalchuk stunned the New Jersey Devils by retiring from the NHL on Thursday to return home to Russia.

In leaving, the 30-year-old Kovalchuk walked from \$77 million left on the 15-year contract that he signed with New Jersey in 2010, including guaranteed annual salaries of at least \$11 million over the next four seasons.

The Devils said Kovalchuk alerted general manager and president Lou Lamoriello this year that he wanted to return home with his family after 11 seasons in the NHL.

"Gentlemen, this wasn't a decision made by the New Jersey Devils," a testy Lamoriello said at the end of a conference call held less than an hour after the retirement was announced.

Lamoriello refused to disclose anything about his conversations with Kovalchuk relating to the retirement. He also did

not clarify whether the Russian planned to play in the KHL in Russia next season or whether the Devils would retain his rights if he reconsidered his retirement, deferring to the NHL. He said Kovalchuk's decision was not related to anything physical.

Kovalchuk had back problems in 2011-12 and missed 11 games this past season with a shoulder injury. "This decision was something I have thought about for a long time going back to the lockout and spending the year in Russia," said Kovalchuk, the No. 1 pick in the 2001 draft, said in a statement. "Though I decided to return this past season, Lou was aware of my desire to go back home and have my family there with me. The most difficult thing for me is to leave the New Jersey Devils."

Kovalchuk was to earn \$11.3 million in each of the next two seasons and \$56 million over the next five years. Lamoriello said Kovalchuk didn't receive a signing bonus, so the team didn't have to seek recovering

any money.

Lamoriello would not say whether the retirement soured him on Kovalchuk's four seasons with the club, but the impression was clearly that he was miffed. Acquired in a trade with Atlanta, Kovalchuk's best season with the Devils was 2011-12 when he had 37 goals. He had 11 goals in 37 games last season. Overall, Kovalchuk scored 417 goals and 399 assists in 816 NHL games. His best NHL seasons were in 2005-06 and 2007-08 when he scored a career-high 52 goals. He had three other 40-goal seasons. Kovalchuk has represented Russia at three Winter Olympics, nine world championships, one world junior championship and the 2004 World Cup. He played in the KHL with SKA St. Petersburg during the recent lockout and was their captain. He participated in the KHL All-Star game before returning to New Jersey for the lockout-shortened 48-game regular season, a campaign where the Devils missed the playoffs. □



In this April 19, 2012, file photo, New Jersey Devils' Ilya Kovalchuk, of Russia, celebrates after scoring a goal against the Florida Panthers during Game 4 of a first-round NHL hockey Stanley Cup playoff series in Newark, N.J.

Associated Press

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NL Capsules

Dodgers beat Diamondbacks 7-5 in 14 innings

PHOENIX (AP) — Hanley Ramirez and A.J. Ellis hit consecutive homers in the 14th inning off Josh Collmenter, helping the Los Angeles Dodgers beat the Arizona Diamondbacks 7-5 on Wednesday night to complete a three-game sweep.

Ellis tied the game with a two-out, run-scoring single in the ninth inning off Heath Bell and Ramirez hit the first pitch of the 14th off Collmenter (4-2) just over the wall in right field. Five pitches later, Ellis made it 7-5 with his fourth homer.

Kenley Jansen (3-3) pitched the final two innings for the Dodgers, who used all of their position players and had Zack Greinke, Monday's starter, pinch hit in the 10th inning. Los Angeles has won 15 of 18 to move within 1 1-2 games of the NL West lead after its first sweep of Arizona since 2010.

Arizona went through eight pitchers in the 19th game in the majors to go at least 14 innings this season, according to STATS. There were 20 total last season.

METS 7, GIANTS 2

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) — Former Giants prospect



The Associated Press The Los Angeles Dodgers celebrate their win over the Arizona Diamondbacks after a baseball game, Wednesday, July 10, 2013, in Phoenix. The Dodgers won 7-5 in 14 innings.

Zack Wheeler pitched seven sharp innings and Marlon Byrd homered again as the New York Mets completed their first sweep in San Francisco since 1994.

Daniel Murphy and John Buck each had two hits and drove in two runs as the Mets won their fourth in a row, including three

straight over the slumping World Series champions. The Giants have lost 16 of 19.

Wheeler (3-1), a former Giants' first-round draft pick, took a shutout into the seventh. He allowed one run and three hits overall, striking out five and walking three.

Matt Cain (5-6) lasted less than an inning for the first time in his career, giving up three runs on two hits while getting just two outs. He walked three.

San Francisco dropped a season-high 10 games under .500 as it was swept at home for the first time in nearly a year.

NATIONALS 5, PHILLIES 1

PHILADELPHIA (AP) — Gio Gonzalez tossed seven sharp innings and the Nationals hit a pair of consecutive homers off Cliff Lee as Washington beat the Philadelphia Phillies.

Anthony Rendon and Wilson Ramos hit back-to-back shots off Lee to start the fifth and Ryan Zimmerman and Jayson Werth did it to open the sixth.

Gonzalez (7-3) gave up one run and six hits, striking out five to win his fourth straight start. The lefty has eight quality starts in a row. Lee (10-3) had allowed nine homers in his first 135 2-3 innings this year before yielding four in a span of eight batters. Darin Ruf hit a solo shot for the Phillies, who failed to reach .500 for the first time since June 7.

MARLINS 6, BRAVES 2

MIAMI (AP) — Giancarlo Stanton hit a two-run dou-

ble to end a 10-game RBI drought, and the Miami Marlins broke a five-game losing streak by beating Atlanta 6-2.

Stanton had been in a 3-for-26 slump before he put the Marlins ahead in their four-run first inning against Paul Maholm (9-8). Placido Polanco added three hits and three RBIs.

Jacob Turner (3-1) allowed four hits and two runs in seven innings. Steve Cisek allowed two singles in the ninth to complete a six-hitter.

The Braves won two of three games in the series but missed a chance for their first road sweep since April 12-14 at Washington. Miami improved to 3-12 against the Braves at Marlins Park since it opened in 2012.

REDS 6, BREWERS 2

MILWAUKEE (AP) — Mike Leake scattered four hits over 8 1-3 innings and Brandon Phillips had three RBI, lifting the Cincinnati Reds over the Milwaukee Brewers.

The Reds put the leadoff runner on base in each of the first seven innings and snapped a three-game losing streak.

Leake (8-4) bounced back from a rare rough start in his last outing and seemed to get stronger as the game progressed. He allowed four walks while striking out two. Milwaukee starter Johnny Hellweg (0-3) had trouble throwing strikes and was battered for his fourth consecutive appearance. The right-hander, who made his major-league debut on June 28, allowed four runs on four hits and five walks in 4 1-3 innings.

ROCKIES 5, PADRES 4

SAN DIEGO (AP) — Rockies starter Jorge De La Rosa took a one-hit shutout into the sixth inning and Colorado held on to give the left-hander his sixth straight win against the San Diego Padres.

De La Rosa lifted his record at Petco Park to 3-0 with a 1.88 ERA. His winning streak against San Diego spans eight starts. □

1B Freeman, RHP Delabar elected to All-Star game

NEW YORK (AP) — Atlanta first baseman Freddie Freeman and Toronto reliever Steve Delabar have won the fan voting for the last spots in the All-Star game. Freeman's victory means Los Angeles Dodgers sensation Yasiel Puig will not get to play in the July 16 game at Citi Field unless he is added as an injury replacement.

Puig is off to a terrific start in his first stint in the majors, but he's only been up for five weeks, leading some to question whether he belongs on the NL team. Freeman set a record with



Atlanta Braves' Freddie Freeman throws his bat after he struck out to end the top of the fourth inning of a baseball game against the Philadelphia Phillies on Sunday, July 7, 2013, in Philadelphia.

Associated Press

19.7 million votes, and Puig was second.

Delabar won with 9.6 million votes.

The right-hander is 5-1 with a 1.74 ERA in 37 appear-

ances for the Blue Jays.

Freeman is batting .307 with nine homers and 56 RBIs heading into Atlanta's game against Cincinnati on Thursday night. □

Mickelson makes ominous 66 start at Scottish Open

STEVE DOUGLAS

AP Sports Writer

INVERNESS, Scotland (AP)

— Phil Mickelson eased back into links golf with a fluent 6-under 66 at the Scottish Open, leaving him ominously positioned behind two Englishman atop the leaderboard after a low-scoring first round on Thursday.

John Parry, ranked No. 471, held the clubhouse lead after a bogey-free 64 and Simon Khan (65) also tamed the Castle Stuart course in perfect morning conditions

make the cut and get into reasonable contention," said Mickelson, who at No. 8 is the highest-ranked player in the tournament. "I'm not having to battle uphill."

Rebounding from three-putting for a bogey on his first hole that left him muttering to himself, Mickelson made a 15-foot putt for eagle at No. 12 — his third hole — and never looked back. The decision to install five greens, all with different surfaces, in his garden to improve his

"I played with some top players and saw what they are like — you realize you are not a million miles away, that they are just more consistent," Parry said. Everything went right for him after going out in the second group at 7:40 a.m., birdieing four of his first six holes. Picking up a shot at the last pushed him ahead of Khan, who had just finished as part of the first group, and left Parry with a broad grin on his face.

"It was one of them where

British Open champions, Darren Clarke and Ernie Els — found things slightly tougher and no one came close to threatening Parry's score. Thongchai missed a short putt for birdie on No. 18 to deny him a tie for second overnight, after the Thai started with three straight birdies. England's Chris Wood was 4 under after three holes but finished on that score.

Clarke, who mastered the

links at Royal St. George's to win his home major in 2011, shot 3 under after going bogey-free over 18 holes for only the second time this season. Els was level par in his last tournament before defending his Open title.

Jeev Milkha Singh of India opened the defense of his title with a 5-under 67, completing his round by chipping in at the last from just off the green. □



U.S. golfer Phil Mickelson plays a shot on the 10th during day one of the Scottish Open at Castle Stuart Golf Course, Inverness Scotland Thursday July 11, 2013.

Associated Press

in the Scottish Highlands to sit alone in second.

Mickelson, however, was lurking in a tie for third with six others after quickly hitting his stride in the warm-up event for next week's British Open, finding his range on and around the greens to card six birdies and an eagle.

Twenty-one years into a trophy-laden professional career, the four-time major winner insists there is still time for him to "conquer links golf" — a style of play that would hardly come naturally to a player hailing from sunny California.

And his stylish opening round suggested a first win in Europe since 1993 could come either here or a few hours south in Muirfield next week.

"It's great for me to get off to a decent start because I have gotten off to poor starts the last couple of years here and I have been fighting just to

putting is paying off this year.

"Many of my great rounds in the past have started with a bogey," Mickelson said, "so I wasn't too worried."

"The very first shot I tried to get a little greedy and it comes back to bite me. So it was a good wake-up call." Mickelson, fresh off missing the cut at the Greenbrier Classic last week and the heartbreak of his runner-up finish at the U.S. Open last month, felt he still "let a few shots go" in his first round of links golf since missing the cut at last year's British Open.

The same can't be said of Parry.

Outside the world's top 600 in December, Parry is in his first year back on the European Tour after losing his card in 2011 and his confidence has been boosted by a surprise 28th-place finish at last month's U.S. Open — his first major.

it just keeps happening," said Parry, whose only tournament win came in the Vivendi Cup in 2010. "You wonder why you can't do that every week." Shane Lowry, Mikko Ilonen, James Morrison, Kiradech Aphibarnrat all shot 66s with Mickelson in the morning session. Thongchai Jaidee and Chris Doak joined the seven-man group in a tie for third place a few hours later.

Castle Stuart — criticized for being one-dimensional and too easy by Graeme McDowell last month — was left defenseless in the morning, a sea of red on the scoreboard reflecting how gentle the early conditions were. Only 14 of the 78 players setting out in the morning session finished over par, and 117 of the 156-man field broke par.

But with the wind picking up off the Moray Firth, the afternoon starters — among them the last two

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ADAM SANDLER | KEVIN JAMES

grown ups 2

MON - THURS 4:35 | 7:05 | 9:35
FRI 4:35 | 7:05 | 9:35 | 11:45
SAT 2:10 | 4:35 | 7:05 | 9:35 | 11:45
SUN & HOL. 2:10 | 4:35 | 7:05 | 9:35

STEVE CARELL | TONI COLLETTE

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SAT, SUN & HOL. 2:15 | 4:40 | 7:05

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FRI 4:15 | 6:30 | 8:50 | 11:20
SAT 2:00 | 4:15 | 6:30 | 8:50 | 11:20
SUN & HOL. 2:00 | 4:15 | 6:30 | 8:50

JOHNNY DEPP | ARMIE HAMMER

THE LONE RANGER

MON - THURS 5:20 | 8:30
FRI 5:20 | 8:30 | 11:40
SAT 2:10 | 5:20 | 8:30 | 11:40
SUN & HOL. 2:10 | 5:20 | 8:30

BRAD PITT | MIREILLE ENOS

WORLD WAR Z

3D VERSION
MON - THURS 9:30
FRI & SAT 9:30 | 12:00
SUN & HOL. 9:30

SANDRA BULLOCK | MELISSA MCCARTHY

THE HEAT

MON - THURS 4:10 | 6:45 | 9:20
FRI 4:10 | 6:45 | 9:20 | 12:00
SAT 1:55 | 4:10 | 6:45 | 9:20 | 12:00
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Cavendish no longer fastest Tour man on two wheels

JOHN LEICESTER
AP Sports Writer

TOURS, France (AP) — At the 100th Tour de France, it is Marcel Kittel and no longer Mark Cavendish who is looking like the fastest man on two wheels.

Everything was primed on Thursday for Cavendish to win a remarkable 25th Tour stage in his illustrious career.

His beefy teammate from Belgium, Gert Steegmans, did his job to perfection, guiding Cavendish into position for the final sprint to the line in Tours in the Loire valley.

But Cavendish simply wasn't quick enough. Kittel overtook him just before the line. The fact that this was a man-to-man contest, fair and square with no excuses, made the German's victory feel more significant than the winning margin — which was mere centimeters.

"He was just simply faster," Cavendish conceded. "I can go back and look over and over again. I don't think myself or the team could have done anything different. He was just simply better, you know?"

It would be foolish and premature to suggest that the Cavendish era at the Tour is ending. He is still by far the most successful stage winner in activity.

Two of the riders with more stage wins than him, Bernard Hinault, with 28, and Eddy Merckx, with 34, are long retired. The third, Andre Lecucq, died in 1980. The Frenchman got 25 wins. Cavendish came to this Tour with 23 — the number is written in green on the black bike he rode on Thursday.

He won his 24th last week in Marseille and could still get to 25 and match Lecucq's total at this Tour. The last

stage, especially, on the Champs-Elysees in Paris almost always offers a golden opportunity for sprinters. Cavendish is unbeaten on those cobblestones since 2009.

Still, the 28-year-old must have been hoping for better from this 100th edition.

dish.

Yet, aside from his win on Stage 5, this isn't proving to be a vintage Tour for Cavendish. He suffered from a heavy cold in the first week. He collided with Tom Veelers, knocking the Dutch rider off his bike, in the sprint finish of Stage

three," Kittel said.

Rolf Aldag, an Omega director, said he still regards Cavendish as "the best sprinter in the world."

"Losing with 5 centimeters, it would be unfair to say that he doesn't have it. I think he still has it," he said. At Sky, Cavendish's former

to bed in."

The 218-kilometer (135.5-mile) Stage 12 produced no change at the top of the overall standings.

Froome still has his big lead of more than three minutes over his main rivals hoping to claw back time on climbs up Mont Ventoux



Marcel Kittel of Germany, right, crosses the finish line ahead of Mark Cavendish of Britain, left, to win the twelfth stage of the Tour de France cycling race over 218 kilometers (136.2 miles) with start in in Fougères and finish in Tours, western France, Thursday July 11 2013.

Associated Press

Since his first victory in 2008, he has always won multiple stages at every Tour. In 2009, he won six.

Cavendish switched teams this year — from Sky to Omega Pharma-Quick Step — because he wanted to be even more successful at the Tour, specifically. Unlike at Sky, which last year focused its resources on Tour winner Bradley Wiggins and, at this Tour, race leader Chris Froome, Omega has built its team around Caven-

10. Cavendish insisted the coming-together wasn't intentional. The next day, a spectator doused him in urine during the time trial. But perhaps worst of all is that Kittel is dominating Cavendish. The Argos-Shimano sprinter has three wins at this Tour. That makes a total of five for German riders — with Tony Martin winning the time trial and Andre Greipel winning a sprint on Stage 6.

"As we say in Germany, good things come in

boss, Dave Brailsford, also warned against jumping to conclusions. He suggested Cavendish simply needs to completely gel with his Omega teammates responsible for maneuvering him into position to compete in the final sprints.

"Mark Cavendish has delivered more often for more times in more races than any other sprinter," said Brailsford. "He is not a machine, he has got a new lead-out team and that will take a bit of time

on Sunday and in the Alps next week. Froome was close enough to hear but narrowly avoid a pile-up that floored about 20 riders just behind him on the road into Tours. The narrow escape demonstrated that to win the Tour, a rider must be lucky as well as strong. Froome's teammate, Edvald Boasson Hagen, was among those brought down. Sky later announced his withdrawal from the race with a broken right shoulder. □



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U.S. judge: Apple colluded to raise e-book prices

LARRY NEUMEISTER
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Associated Press
NEW YORK (AP) — Apple Inc. milked the popularity of its iTunes store to form an illegal cartel with publishers to raise electronic book prices, a federal judge decided in a case swayed by the words of the late Steve Jobs.

Wednesday's ruling by U.S. District Judge Denise Cote in Manhattan sided with government regulators' contention that Apple joined five major book publishers to gang up on Amazon.com in a price-fixing conspiracy that caused consumers to pay more for electronic books.

Determined to protect one of the world's most beloved brands, Apple has steadfastly denied it did anything wrong, even as the book publishers involved in the case settled to avoid a trial. Apple didn't waver from its insistence of innocence after Cote drew an unflattering portrait of the iPhone and iPad maker in

her 160-page ruling. The Cupertino, California, company vowed to appeal the decision, extending a legal odyssey that could wind up in the U.S. Supreme Court.

It's unclear whether the initial outcome will have a dramatic impact on the pricing of e-books, which continue to supplant printed copies as more people buy tablets such as the iPad and other devices such as Amazon's Kindle.

"The effect on consumers will be negligible," predicted Ankur Kapoor, an antitrust specialist for Constantine Cannon in New York.

The earlier settlements with book publishers were designed to encourage more discounting. But that hasn't happened, even at Amazon, which had unnerved publishers by selling e-book versions of popular hardcover titles for \$9.99 before the April 2010 release of Apple's iPad.

It's a discounting practice that Apple and the publishers sought to eliminate



In a Friday, June 7, 2013 file photo, a sign displays the Apple logo outside of the company's headquarters in Cupertino, Calif.

Associated Press

leading up to the iPad's debut, according to the antitrust lawsuit filed last year by the U.S. Justice Department and 33 state attorneys general.

Apple's iTunes store, where hundreds of millions of consumers already were regu-

larly buying music, videos and applications, provided a powerful platform to undermine Amazon's pricing system, the government contended in arguments that ultimately convinced Cote, who presided over the two-and-half-week tri-

al.

"Apple seized the moment and brilliantly played its hand," Cote said. She wrote that Apple's deals with publishers caused some e-book prices to rise 50 percent or more virtually overnight.

Norway mulls broadband coverage in Arctic



In this July 21, 2011 file photo, an iceberg floats in the sea near Qeqertarsuaq, Disko Island, Greenland.

Associated Press

MARK LEWIS
Associated Press
STAVANGER, Norway (AP) — Norway may provide high-speed Internet in one of the few places on Earth where it's not available: the Arctic. The Norwegian Space Center has teamed up with Telenor Satellite Broadcasting to assess the feasibility of a new satellite system covering northern areas outside the reach of current geostationary communications satellites.

Space center director Bo Andersen on Thursday told The Associated Press the system could be in place in the early 2020s if it gets

the necessary funding from private and public sources. The estimated cost is 2 billion-4 billion kroner (\$330 million-\$650 million).

Demand for high-speed Internet in the Arctic is expected to grow as shipping, fishing and oil companies move north amid warming temperatures and melting ice. Last year, summer sea ice cover in the Arctic fell to the lowest extent on record.

Geostationary satellites, which are in orbit over the equator, provide coverage up to 75 degrees north, Andersen said. But above that latitude, the signals

become too weak, and the only option is another satellite network that can only handle voice and limited data service. "We see very clearly that there is an increasing need for broadband in the high Arctic," Andersen said.

Ola Anders Skauby, a spokesman for Norwegian energy company Statoil, said "new satellite solutions would be beneficial" as the offshore industry moves north in search of oil and gas.

"Our plans for the Arctic depend on a number of issues: safe operations, logistics, weather conditions and more," he said.

Bernanke bounce cools stimulus fears, sends stocks higher

STEVE ROTHWELL

AP Markets Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Call it the Bernanke Boost.

The stock market, which has been marching higher for a week, got extra fuel Thursday after Federal Reserve Chairman Ben Bernanke said the central bank will keep supporting the economy.

The Dow Jones industrial average and Standard & Poor's 500 surged to all-time highs. And the yield on the 10-year Treasury note continued to decline as investors bought bonds. Stocks

that benefit most from a continuation of low interest rates, such as homebuilders, notched some of the biggest gains.

The chairman made the comments in a speech late Wednesday after U.S. markets had closed, saying the economy needs the Fed's easy-money policy "for the foreseeable future."

The U.S. economy needs help because unemployment is high, Bernanke said. His remarks seemed to ease investors' fears that the central bank will pull back on its economic stim-

ulus too quickly. The Fed is currently buying \$85 billion a month in bonds to keep interest rates low and to encourage spending and hiring.

Stock index futures rose overnight. Stocks surged when the market opened Thursday and stayed high for the rest of the day.

"It's back to the old accommodative Fed, so the markets are happy again," said Randy Frederick, Managing Director of Active Trading and Derivatives at the Schwab Center for Financial Research.

The market pulled back last month after Bernanke laid out a timetable for the Fed to wind down its bond-buying program. He said the central bank would likely ease back on its monthly purchases if the economy strengthened sufficiently. On Thursday, the S&P 500 index jumped 22.40 points, or 1.4 percent, to 1,675.02, surpassing its previous record close of 1,669 from May 21. The index rose for a sixth straight day, its longest streak in four months. The Dow rose 169.26 points, or 1.1 percent, to 15,460.92, above its own all-time closing high of 15,409 set May 28.

The Nasdaq composite rose 57.55 points, or 1.4 percent, to 3,578.30.

In government bond trading, the yield on the 10-year note fell to 2.57 percent from 2.63 percent Wednesday.

The yield was as high as 2.74 percent Friday after the government reported strong hiring in June.

Many traders took that report as a signal that the Fed would be more likely to slow its bond purchases sooner rather than later.

The Fed has also said it plans to keep short-term rates at record lows, at least until unemployment falls to 6.5 percent. Bernanke emphasized Wednesday that the level of unemployment is a threshold, not

a trigger. The central bank might decide to keep its benchmark short-term rate near zero even after unemployment falls that low. Among individual companies in the S&P 500, Advanced Micro Devices rose the most after news that it the company will make chips for two big gaming devices. The company gained 47 cents, or 11.8 percent, to \$4.45.

Homebuilders, which are sensitive to the outlook for interest rates, were also big gainers.

D.R. Horton rose \$1.93, or 9.2 percent, to \$22.98 and Lennar Group climbed \$2.88, or 8.3 percent, to \$37.44.

The housing market has benefited from low interest rates because they help make mortgages cheaper.

"The Bernanke qualifications have taken the interest rate risk off the table and now it's really about what will earnings say," said Jonathan Lewis, chief investment officer at Samson Capital Advisors.

Corporations began reporting earnings this week for the second quarter, which ended 11 days ago. S&P Capital IQ forecast that companies in the S&P 500 will report average earnings growth of 3 percent compared with the second quarter last year.

The price of gold gained for a fourth straight day, climbing \$32.50, or 2.6 percent, to \$1,279.90 an ounce.

Gold has rebounded this week after falling close to a three-year low.

Gold is rising because the prospect of continued stimulus from the Fed could weaken the dollar and increase the risk of inflation. That, in turn, increases the appeal of gold as an alternative investment.

The rise in gold helped mining stocks. Newport Mining gained \$1.51, or 5.7 percent, to \$28.12. Freeport-McMoRan Copper & Gold rose \$1.24, or 4.6 percent, to \$28.53.

In other commodity trading, oil fell back from a 16-month high, dropping \$1.61, or 1.5 percent, to \$104.91 a barrel. □



David Karp, center in plaid shirt, Founder and CEO of Tumblr, poses for photos with Tumblr employees in front of Nasdaq in Times Square after ringing the opening bell, Thursday, July 11, 2013 in New York. Yahoo acquired the online blogging forum for \$1.1 billion in June. Tumblr will remain independently operated and Karp will stay CEO.

(AP Photo/Mark Lennihan)

Duke announces her departure from Fed board

M. CRUTSINGER

AP Economics Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — Elizabeth Duke announced Thursday that she will step down from the Federal Reserve's board in Washington at the end of August.

Duke, 60, has been on the Fed board since August 2008. Her term officially ended in January 2012, but board members can remain until someone is chosen to replace them.

Her departure creates a vacancy for President Barack Obama to fill at time when he may also need to find a successor for Chairman Ben Bernanke. Bernanke is expected to leave the Fed

when his second four-year term ends in January.

In her resignation letter to Obama, Duke praised Bernanke's leadership during the 2008 financial crisis. She said the Fed under Bernanke's guidance had "met every test in a thoughtful, innovative and effective way."

Duke was appointed by President George W. Bush to serve the remainder of a 14-year term. In a statement released by the Fed, she did not say what her plans were.

Before joining the board, Duke had been chief operating officer of TowneBank, a Virginia-based commu-

nity bank. On the board, Duke specialized in bank regulatory issues.

The Fed board is composed of seven members, or "governors," including the chairman. Governors serve 14-year terms, which are intended to help insulate them from political pressures. All seven governors are also voting members of the Federal Open Market Committee, the panel that sets the Fed's interest-rate policies. The FOMC has 12 voting members at any one time. The president of the Federal Reserve Bank of New York always has a vote. The four other votes rotate annually among 11

other regional Fed bank presidents.

During her years on the Fed's board, Duke has been a steady Bernanke ally who has sided with his efforts to keep interest rates low to support the economy. In addition to participating in interest-rate decisions, Fed board members oversee the regulation of bank-holding companies, which include the nation's biggest banks.

Fed board members are nominated by the president and confirmed by the Senate. Regional Fed bank presidents are chosen by the board of each regional bank. □

Microsoft reshuffling company structure to promote innovation

BARBARA ORTUTAY
MICHAEL LIEDTKE
AP Technology Writers
NEW YORK (AP) — Microsoft Corp. is reshuffling its business in an attempt to promote faster innovation and a sharper focus on devices and services. The move by the world's largest software maker comes amid lukewarm response to the latest version of its flagship Windows operating system and a steady decline in demand for PCs as people turn to tablets and other mobile gadgets. CEO Steve Ballmer said in a memo to employees Thursday that the changes mean the company is "rallying behind a single strat-

Analysts have blamed a massive consumer migration to tablets and other mobile devices for the fall-off. But many observers also believe Microsoft's Windows 8 operating system—which comes installed on most new PCs—has turned consumers off.

"We are ready to take Microsoft in a bold new direction," Ballmer said in a conference call with reporters and analysts. "We need to make the right decisions more quickly," he said. The company's new divisions include engineering, marketing and business development. Microsoft named veteran executive Julie Larson-Green head



Steve Ballmer, chief executive of Microsoft, during the introduction of the Surface tablet last year.

(Handout Photo)

egy" and organizing by function. While it has been widely anticipated, it's too early to tell how well the reorganization will help Microsoft compete with more nimble rivals like Apple and Google.

"You don't make massive, sweeping changes like this unless something is wrong," said Colin Gillis, an analyst at BGC Financial, pointing to Wednesday's reports of declining PC shipments around the world.

Worldwide shipments of personal computers fell 11 percent in the April-June period, according to data from research firms Gartner and IDC.

Gartner Inc. said the PC industry is now experiencing the longest decline in its history, as shipments dropped for the fifth consecutive quarter.

of its devices and studios engineering group, overseeing hardware development, games, music and entertainment. She had been promoted in November to lead all Windows software and hardware engineering after Steven Sinofsky, the president of its Windows and Windows Live operations, left the company shortly after the launch of Windows 8.

Terry Myerson will lead Microsoft's operating systems and engineering group, namely Windows. Qi Lu will head applications and services.

Ballmer stressed the company's focus on "one Microsoft" in his memo. He said Microsoft will move forward operating as a cohesive company rather than a "collection of divisional strategies." □

US unemployment benefit applications rise

C. S. RUGABER
AP Economics Writer
WASHINGTON (AP) — The number of Americans applying for unemployment

makers briefly shut down their factories to prepare for new models and many schools close. Those factors can create a temporary

six months.

Yelena Shulyatyeva, an economist at BNP Paribas, said the volatility will likely continue for the rest of the month and "could mask the true underlying trend in jobless claims data."

"We believe that labor market conditions remain on a gradually improving trajectory," she added.

Employers added 195,000 jobs in June, and revisions showed that an additional 70,000 jobs were added in the previous two months. The unemployment rate was 7.6 percent, down from 8.2 percent a year earlier. Applications fell to their lowest level since the recession began in the April-June quarter, according to calculations by Joseph LaVorgna, chief U.S. economist at Deutsche Bank. They averaged 346,000 a week in the second quarter. That is the lowest quarterly average since it was 338,000 in the final three months of 2007, when the Great Recession began. About 4.5 million people received unemployment benefits in the week ending June 22, the latest data available.



A Help Wanted sign is displayed in the window of a restaurant at a shopping center in Charlotte, N.C. The Labor Department reported on the number of Americans who applied for unemployment benefits last week on Thursday, July 11, 2013.

(AP Photo/Chuck Burton)

benefits rose 16,000 last week to a seasonally adjusted 360,000, although the level remains consistent with steady hiring.

The Labor Department said Thursday that the less volatile four-week average increased 6,000 to 351,750. The weekly applications data can be volatile in July because some auto-

spike in layoffs. The broader trend has been favorable. Applications have declined steadily in the past year, as companies have laid off fewer workers and stepped up hiring. In the past six months, employers have added an average of 202,000 jobs a month. That's up from an average of 180,000 in the previous

US retailers report strong gains for June

A. D'INNOCENZIO
AP Retail Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — June sales heated up for stores. Costco Corp., Fred's Inc. and Stein Mart Inc. were among the U.S. retailers that reported their strongest sales gains since January, as shoppers, enticed by warm weather and an improving economy, took advantage of summer discounts.

Revenue at stores opened at least a year — an industry measure of a store's health — rose 3.9 percent in June compared with the same month a year ago, according to a preliminary tally of 12 retailers by the International Council of Shopping Centers. The mall trade group had expected an increase of 3 to 3.5 percent.

The data, released Thursday, offers positive signs for the back-to-school sea-

son, which is the second-biggest shopping period behind the winter holidays. June is when stores clear out summer merchandise to make room for goods for fall, so brisk sales mean that stores likely won't be stuck with piles of summer shorts and T-shirts that they need to get rid of.

June's performance was its best performance since January's 4.5 percent gain and showed a gradual improvement since early this spring. The tally was up 3.4 percent in May and 3 percent in April.

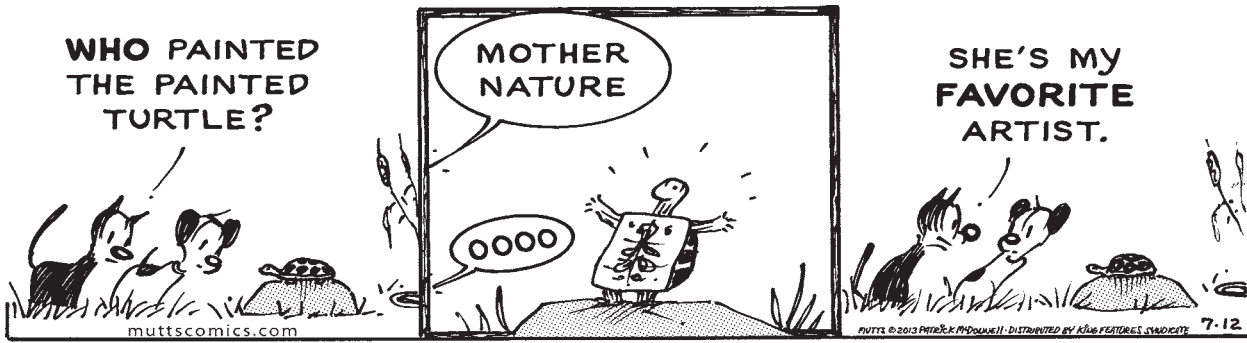
Hot weather was a big factor in June that helped shoppers get into the mood of buying tank tops and shorts. But stores also benefited against an improving economic backdrop. The economy gained a robust 195,000 jobs in June. Employers have added an average 202,000 jobs for the

past six months, up from 180,000 in the previous six. The housing market is also gaining strength. And consumer confidence in June is at the highest level since January 2008, according to the Conference Board.

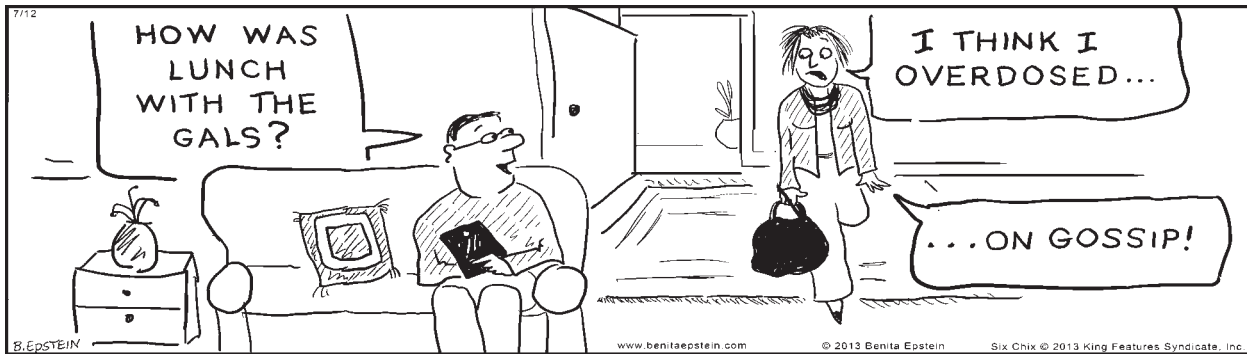
"The reports are encouraging," said Michael P. Niemira, chief economist at the International Council of Shopping Centers. "We had seen consumers pull back a littler earlier this year, but now there's a willingness to spend. It adds to the flavor of the other economic data out there that looks better."

Stein Mart, a department store chain that sells lower priced merchandise, said June revenue at stores open at least a year climbed 6.5 percent, driven by strong sales of women's clothing, analysts had expected a 4 percent increase. □

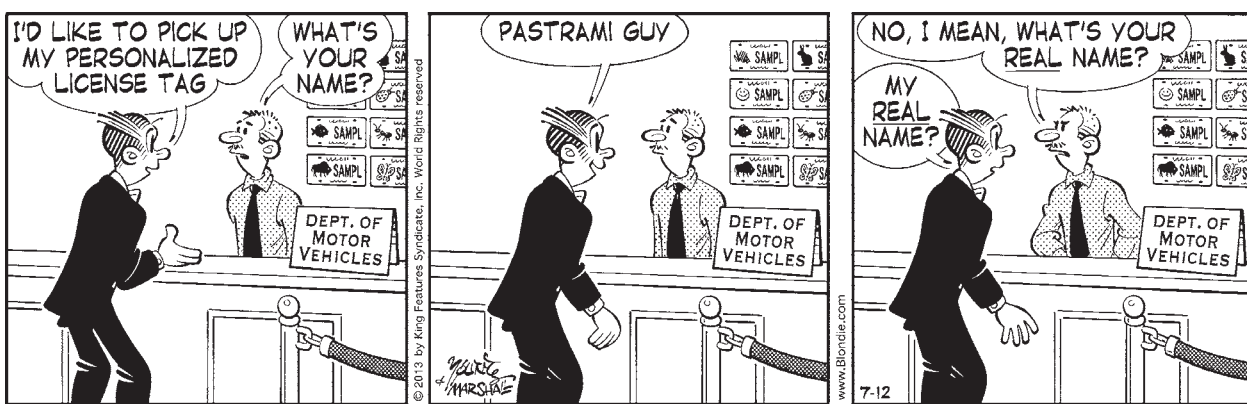
Mutts



6 Chix



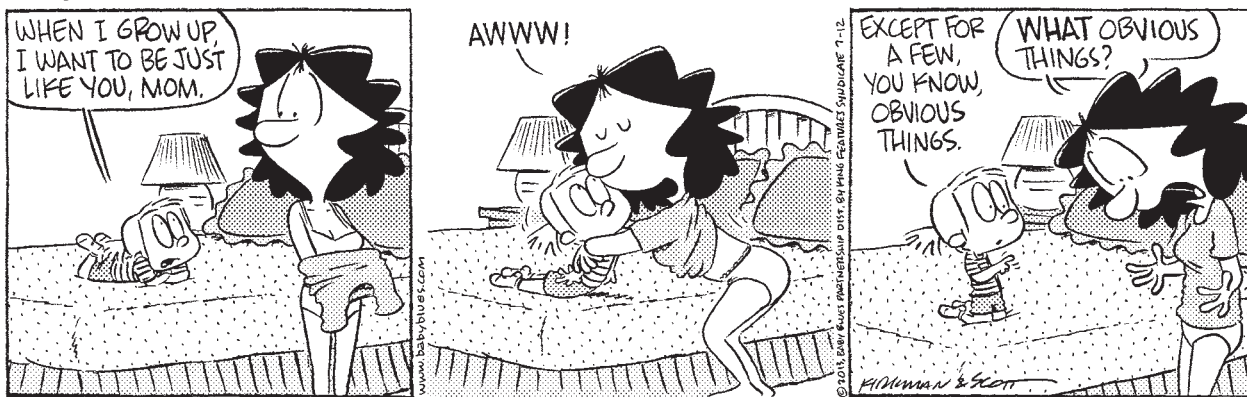
Blondie



Mother Goose & Grimm



Baby Blues



Zits



Conceptis Sudoku

			6	4	7			
		2				8		
	6						1	
6			7		3			2
1								7
9			1		5			4
	4						2	
		5				3		
			8	9	1			

Difficulty Level ★★★★★

7/12

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Sunday.

8	4	2	7	5	6	3	1	9
6	3	9	8	2	1	4	5	7
1	7	5	3	4	9	6	8	2
7	1	6	9	3	2	5	4	8
5	2	8	6	1	4	9	7	3
4	9	3	5	8	7	2	6	1
9	5	4	1	7	3	8	2	6
2	6	1	4	9	8	7	3	5
3	8	7	2	6	5	1	9	4

ACROSS

- Donaldson or Waterston
- Fall flower
- suey; Chinese dish
- Decorated a cake
- Agreement with a landlord
- Hawaiian island
- Precious
- Light sources
- Radar screen image
- Bank ; monthly mailing
- Wines & dines
- Utters
- Sense of wonder
- quo; current situation
- Facts & figures stored in a computer
- In the of; used to doing
- 2-footed animal
- Hit a tennis ball in a high arc
- The "Odyssey" or the "Iliad"
- Adjusted a piano
- Storage tower
- Assistance
- Soft drinks
- Nut variety
- Weird
- Business near a vineyard
- Friend
- Discover
- Dad
- Study of the usage of words
- College credit
- Plain to see
- From soup to
- Girl who died in "Little Women"
- Chop finely
- Egghead
- Persuade
- Firstborn of two
- 007, for one

1	2	3		4	5	6	7	8		9	10	11	12
13			14		15					16			
17					18					19			
	20			21						22			
			23					24	25				
26	27	28				29	30			31	32	33	
34					35					36			
37					38					39			
40				41						42			
43			44					45					
			46				47						
48	49	50			51	52	53			54	55		
56					57					58		59	
60					61					62			
63					64					65			

Created by Jacqueline E. Mathews

7/12/13

Thursday's Puzzle Solved

HARE	STAMP	PRAM
OPEN	WIDER	RAGU
LEST	ADDLE	ACES
EXTREME	EEERIE	ST
	ELI	VENUS
DECAF	SIS	READS
WART	FOE	RASCAL
ATE	RESTFUL	TRY
REPAID	NAB	HEEL
FREDS	LAD	PADDY
	VENOM	GAB
SATIRIC	MARINES	
IBIS	GAMUT	TIRE
GLEE	ELATE	AKIN
HERD	RENTS	TEND

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7/12/13

- | | |
|-----------------------------|--------------------|
| 35 New blossoms | 47 Parody; satire |
| 38 Requiring much hard work | 48 Taverns |
| 39 Mailing | 49 Once again |
| 41 Music from Jamaica | 50 Pocket bread |
| 42 Half-quart | 52 Corrupt |
| 44 Lack of interest | 53 Repair |
| 45 Coldest season | 54 Actors' signals |
| | 55 Tread |
| | 59 Firmament |

Film Review:

'Crystal Fairy': Psychedelic euphoria wears off

STEPHEN HOLDEN

© 2013 New York Times

The title character of "Crystal Fairy," Sebastián Silva's small, lovely road movie, is the assumed name of a free-spirited latter-day hippie visiting Chile. She attaches herself to another

their cactuses is no easy task. When his crass offers to buy a piece of cactus are flatly rejected, Jamie resorts to theft. The movie is so deceptively easygoing that it feels semi-improvised by the actors, who include the director's three

portable sense of proximity. "Crystal Fairy" is the furthest thing from a conventional "trip" movie. Its last part portrays the group drug experience with minimal psychedelic effects, only some subtly glowing colors and muted echoes. The men frolic in the surf while Crystal, naked, wanders off among the rocks.

As the sun sets, and the mescaline wears off, she returns, and raw emotions surface. When Jamie apologizes to Crystal for his high-handed behavior, it feels as if a layer of his defense had been temporarily peeled away. Crystal gets off her spiritual high horse and relives a traumatic moment at a party when she was a teenager. If it all feels entirely real, the movie doesn't imagine that the drug has been a mystical, life-changing experience. □



An undated handout photo of Gaby Hoffmann, left, and Michael Cera in "Crystal Fairy," directed by Sebastian Silva. In the film, two young Americans attend a coke-and-pot-fueled party and go on a road trip with three Chilean brothers.

(Sofia Subercaseaux/The New York Times)

American tourist, Jamie (Michael Cera), after he casually invites her to join him and his friends. Perfectly played by Gaby Hoffmann, Crystal Fairy has all the hallmarks of a professed earth mother holding the keys to truth, peace, love and wisdom. She has her charms, but like many such know-it-alls, she can be overbearing and preachy.

Both characters are first glimpsed at a coke-and-pot-fueled party in Santiago, where Jamie remarks that Crystal, who is dancing by herself in a theatrical trance, resembles a "dark tornado." He also comments on the quality of Chilean drugs in the pretentious manner of a connoisseur. At the same time, Cera exudes the gawky bravado of an unformed man-child straining to act like a grown-up.

With his Chilean friend Champa (Juan Andrés Silva) and Champa's brothers, Lel (José Miguel Silva) and Pilo (Agustín Silva), Jamie is headed for the Atacama Desert, where they plan to drink mescaline tea brewed from slices of a San Pedro cactus and then trip all day on the beach. But persuading the local residents to part with

brothers. The seeming casualness is such that, at a certain point, you feel like a traveler on a real-life journey during which the tensions between Jamie and Crystal threaten to erupt into warfare. Crystal masks her frustration and anger by affecting an attitude of tolerant superiority toward Jamie's impatience and air of entitlement. But it's obvious that his brusque self-assurance is a ruse camouflaging insecurity. Shortly after joining the party, Crystal emerges naked from a shower and remains unclothed while Jamie squirms with embarrassment. Crystal, who doesn't seem to notice, believes ardently in savoring the moment and in treating every activity as a sacred ritual. A psychic bully, she insists that the travelers put magic stones in their tea and spouts tired platitudes about cosmic connectedness. She is obsessed with doomsday prophecies surrounding the Maya calendar and warns of humanity's imminent demise. Sebastián Silva is extremely perceptive about body language, and the characters' physical presences are as revealing as their words. The performances give you an almost uncom-

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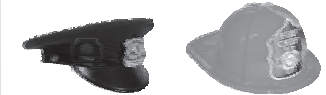
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Study: Distant quakes can affect oil, gas fields

ALICIA CHANG
AP Science Writer

LOS ANGELES (AP) — The powerful earthquake that rocked Japan in 2011 set off tremors around a West Texas oil field, according to new research that suggests oil and gas drilling operations may make fault zones sensitive to shock waves from distant big quakes. It's long been known that large quakes can trigger minor jolts thousands of miles from the epicenter. Volcanically active spots like Yellowstone National Park often experience shaking after a large distant event.

Less is known about the influence of remote quakes on fault lines that have been weakened by man-made activity like the deep disposal of wastewater at the Texas oil field. A new study led by researchers at Columbia University and published Friday in the journal *Science* suggests a strong quake that strikes halfway around the globe can set off small to mid-size quakes near injection wells in the U.S. heartland. "The seismic waves act as the straw that breaks the camel's back, pushing the faults that last little bit toward an earthquake," lead researcher Nicholas van der Elst said in an email. There has been height-



This March 12, 2011 file photo a man walks by a collapsed house and debris at Sendai Port in Sendai, northeastern Japan, following Friday's 8.9-magnitude quake.

Associated Press

ened scrutiny in recent years of quakes near industrial areas as drilling is ramped up to satisfy the country's energy hunger. Research has shown that wastewater disposal — the process of pumping fluids deep into the ground at high pressures — can weaken nearby fault lines and even produce quakes big enough to be felt. The controversial practice of hydraulic fracturing, or fracking, which uses high-pressure mixtures of water, sand and chemicals to extract natural gas or oil,

also can trigger quakes, but they're typically microquakes — smaller than magnitude-2. By poring through the quake archives, van der Elst and colleagues found evidence that faults near wastewater injection sites were loaded with stress when ripples from a far-away earthquake traveled around the planet. They contend: —The magnitude-9 Japan quake set off a swarm in the West Texas town of Snyder, where oil extraction has caused shaking in

the past.

—The magnitude-8.8 Chile quake in 2010 triggered a magnitude-4.1 in Oklahoma home of active injection wells.

—The Chile quake also set off a series of small quakes in the Colorado town of Trinidad near the New Mexico state line known for extracting natural gas from coal beds. In those instances, the triggered seismic activity was followed months later by a moderate quake and researchers say that could be a warning sign of stress on the fault. The triggered events are too small to relieve all the stress and some of that stress can be transferred to nearby faults, making a future larger event more likely, said van der Elst.

Not all sites near injection wells showed increased shaking after a strong distant quake. The team found the most affected areas were places where pumping has been going on for decades.

University of Utah mechanical engineer Sidney Green called the results interesting but "rather speculative" and said they need more study.

If the observations bear out, it could help oil and gas operators know "where it's safe to inject and where it's

not," said Julie Shemeta, a geophysicist and president of Colorado-based MEQ Geo Inc., a consulting company.

Despite a history of man-made quakes near wastewater injection sites, only a small number of the country's 30,000 disposal wells are a problem, said U.S. Geological Survey seismologist William Ellsworth, who published an article in the journal reviewing the state of research.

Ellsworth said fracking does not pose a high risk for triggering quakes strong enough to feel. The largest man-made quake linked to fracking was a magnitude-3.6 in British Columbia in 2009.

In a third quake-related paper appearing in *Science*, researchers at the University of California, Santa Cruz, found increased seismic activity over a 30-year period around a Southern California geothermal plant located near the San Andreas Fault. The plant pumps water in and out of an underground reservoir to make steam that drives turbines.

Lead author Emily Brodsky said she has come up with a way to determine the rate of quakes from pumping at the site and plans to test the method at other geothermal plants. □

Solar system has a tail, just like comets

MARCIA DUNN
CAPE CANAVERAL, Florida
(AP) — Our solar system has a tail, just like comets. Now the U.S. space agency can prove it.

Scientists revealed images Wednesday showing the tail emanating from the bullet-shaped region of space under the grip of the sun, including the solar system and beyond.

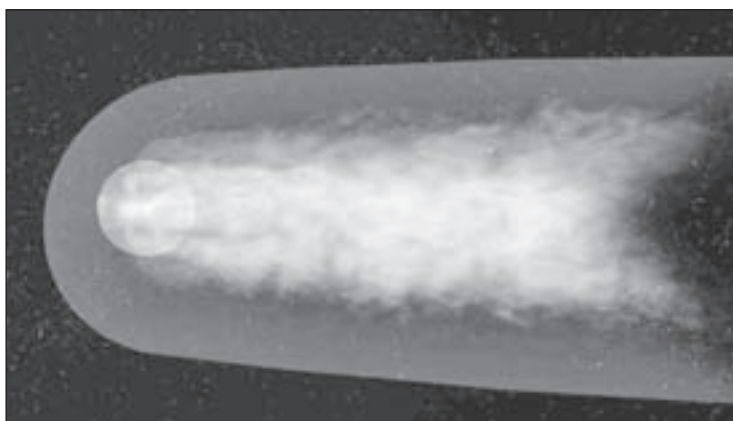
The region is known as the heliosphere, and the tail is called the heliotail.

The findings are based on data from NASA's Interstellar Boundary Explorer, or IBEX.

Scientists always presumed

the heliosphere had a tail, but this provides the first real data on its shape. Chief IBEX investigator David McComas says it's

difficult to calculate the length of the heliotail. But the evaporating end of the tail could stretch 100 billion miles. □



This image provided by NASA's Goddard Space Flight Center shows a diagram of the sun, the white dot in the center of the circle which represents the inner heliosphere encompassing the entire solar system.

Associated Press



In this Jan. 19, 2012 file photo, "The Lion King" marquee is displayed at The Minskoff Theatre in New York.

Associated Press

'The Lion King' on the road hits \$1B

MARK KENNEDY
AP Drama Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — It's a mainstay on Broadway and now "The Lion King" has proved it's a king on the road, too.

Disney Theatrical Productions said Wednesday that the show's total touring box office gross in North America has reached \$1 billion. Producers estimate that more than 15 million theatergoers in over 70 cities across North America have seen the show since 2002.

Says Jack Eldon, a vice president at Disney Theatrical Productions: "We remain overwhelmed by the enduring response to the show and are enormously thankful to our patrons — new and returning — for their continued enthusiasm and support."

It reached its milestone quickly. Three national tours of "The Phantom of the Opera" have grossed over \$1.5 billion in combined box office sales but the first kicked off in 1989.



Kris Jenner lives talk show 'dream' this summer

LYNN ELBER

AP Television Writer

LOS ANGELES (AP) — The driven matriarch of the Kardashian-Jenner clan is taking center stage with her own talk show, and Kris Jenner said she's ready for the spotlight.

"I'm definitely living my dream," Jenner said of Monday's launch of "Kris," a daily talk show getting a summer test run on Fox stations in a handful of major U.S. TV markets.

If Jenner proves her appeal with viewers, she can expect to join the swelling ranks of national daytime hosts that include reigning queen Ellen DeGeneres, newcomers Katie Couric, Steve Harvey and Bethenny Frankel and, on the fall TV horizon, Queen Latifah. So what does Jenner bring to the talk-show table? As she explains it, a strong sense of what people want from her and "Kris," airing for six weeks in Los Angeles, New York, Minneapolis, Phoenix, Dallas and Charlotte, N.C.

"It's a day and date show. I think the audience wants to talk about things happening right now in popular culture," Jenner said. "It's going to be lighthearted — I'm not into doing depressing stories or sensational stories or hateful stories."

Her focus will be on pop culture, beauty, fashion, home design and fitness. Jenner isn't a novice in the talk show game, with appearances and some guest-host gigs on programs including "The Talk," "Today" and "The View," said Stephen Brown, Fox Television Stations executive vice president for programming and development. Viewers "have seen her sub in before (as a host), so they know she can do it. I know she can do it. That's why we designed the set to look like her house. In essence, she's inviting the audience into her home," Brown said.

That's the home made so familiar to viewers on the E! channel's "Keeping Up with the Kardashians," the oversized window on the lives of Jenner's big and growing family that in-



In this Monday July 8, 2013 photo, TV personality Kris Jenner poses for a portrait in New York.

Associated Press

cludes new mom Kim Kardashian and North West, her daughter with Kanye West. But "Kris" won't be an extension of the reality show that launched in 2007, Jenner insisted: "It's absolutely about the viewer. It's not a show about me and my kids."

That doesn't mean she's shutting them out. Daughter Khloe Kardashian-Odom will be among the daily co-hosts who will

drop by (Joan Rivers, Sean "Diddy Combs" and Kathie Lee Gifford are on the list) and there's room for more members of the blended family.

Asked when North would make her public debut, Jenner said that remains to be seen. She said the new parents are "doing really, really great" and described the baby, born several weeks early on June 15, as beautiful.

As for the rest of the family's involvement in the talk show, "I think everybody, depending on what's going on in their universe, will come on and pay a little visit here and there. ... That's just the natural order of things in my house. It's like, 'OK, mom's got a new project'" to support, Jenner said.

Continued on next page

Sam Mendes returning to direct 24th Bond film

NEW YORK (AP) — Sam Mendes is coming back to direct another James Bond film with Daniel Craig following the enormously successful "Skyfall."

The British director Mendes had said earlier that "Skyfall" would be his lone entry in the 007 canon, but Bond producers and Sony Pictures announced his return Thursday.

Mendes recently debuted an adaptation of "Charlie & the Chocolate Factory" in London. He's also mounting "King Lear" for the National Theatre.

Mendes says in a statement "that by giving me the time I need to honor all my theater commitments, the producers have made



In this June 25, 2013 file photo, director Sam Mendes arrives for the opening night of the musical "Charlie and the Chocolate Factory," at the Drury Lane Theatre in central London.

Associated Press

it possible for me to direct Bond 24."

The as-yet-titled Bond film is scheduled to be released in fall 2015. The script is by

"Skyfall" screenwriter John Logan.

Released last year, "Skyfall" made more than \$1.1 billion worldwide.

Crystal touts tourism for N.Y. hometown after Sandy

LONG BEACH, New York (AP) — Billy Crystal is going to bat for his New York hometown following the pummeling it took from Superstorm Sandy.

The comedian and "When Harry Met Sally" actor has made a television commercial telling tourists to visit Long Beach, just east of New York City.

Long Beach was among many Northeast communities devastated by the October storm. Its 2-mile (3.2-kilometer)-long boardwalk was destroyed, and hundreds of homes were damaged.

Crystal appears in a TV ad trumpeting "Long Beach is Open for Business."

City officials say Crystal appeared in the ad for free and last month donated \$1 million for rebuilding efforts. The commercial is part of a \$700,000 advertising campaign. The TV ads will run in the New York City region.

Crystal graduated from Long Beach High School in 1965. □



In this Sept. 21, 2012 file photo, actor Billy Crystal arrives on the red carpet for a screening of his latest film, "Parental Guidance," at the AARP's national convention in New Orleans.

Associated Press



In this Sept. 30, 2012 file photo, Justin Bieber performs at the MGM Grand Garden Arena in Las Vegas.

Associated Press

Bieber apologizes for presidential antics

CARYN ROUSSEAU

Associated Press

CHICAGO (AP) — Justin Bieber apologized by phone to Bill Clinton, the former president's office said Thursday, for cursing Clinton and spraying his photo with cleaning fluid in a New York City restaurant kitchen earlier this year.

The pop star also had repercussions from a tour stop in Chicago earlier this week when city officials said Bieber was listed as an underage guest on a citation that police issued to a nightclub.

Clinton's office said Thursday the pop star called and "he apologized and offered to help the Clinton Foundation." Clinton's office declined to provide any other details.

A video released Wednesday by TMZ.com shows the 19-year-old Bieber urinating in a mop bucket as he and others race through the restaurant kitchen. Before exiting, Bieber sprays the Clinton photo and drops the F-bomb in reference to the former president.

Bieber tweeted to his more than 41 million followers Wednesday night, thanking Clinton "for taking the time to talk." Bieber tweeted: "Your words meant

alot. #greatguy."

Separately, Chicago Department of Business Affairs and Consumer Protection spokeswoman Jennifer Lipford confirmed Thursday that the 19-year-old Bieber was listed as an underage guest on a citation of Bodi nightclub. Police cited the club early Wednesday for admitting and knowingly having an underage person in the establishment, she said.

Bieber performed in a concert at Chicago's United Center on Tuesday evening.

The next step is for the citation to go to an administrative hearing. The club faces a fine of up to \$1,000. A date hasn't been set.

Bodi issued a statement saying Bieber made a brief appearance to support a friend who is a DJ and was performing at the nightclub.

The club said Bieber was not served alcohol.

"Neither Justin nor anyone affiliated with Bodi broke any laws," the statement said. "We believe this matter amounts to a simple misunderstanding with local police officers."

A representative for Bieber did not immediately have comment. □

Jenner

Continued from previous page

Besides, she said, through the many years of "Keeping Up," viewers "have really invested in our family and the whole relationship."

Jenner is a good match for Fox's lighter programming aimed at young adult viewers and should pair well with other talk shows carried by Fox stations, including "The Wendy Williams Show," said Bill Carroll, an expert in the syndication market for Katz Media.

Add in the experienced broadcasters who will join Jenner as guest co-hosts, including Tom Bergeron and Ryan Seacrest (the producer of "Keeping Up"), and "all those things bode well for the test," Carroll said.

While her family's fame and pop-culture reach

have made critics wince at a society that rewards celebrity before achievement, they are an undisputed object of fascination with a combined 52 million Twitter followers and a total of some 60 million on Facebook and Instagram.

The audience of 3 million that tuned in for June's season debut of "Keeping Up" is slim by comparison, but it's a sturdy number for the cable show that's the starting point for all things Jenner-Kardashian.

As viewers and magazine devotees know, that means a focus on living an exciting, well-dressed life that can include chaotic personal relationships such as Kim Kardashian's short-lived marriage to pro athlete Kris Humphries.

But there's far more to the family empire than magazine headlines and multiple TV spinoffs. Besides product endorsements,

there are ventures such as a teen clothing line from youngest kids Kendall and Kylie Jenner.

Chalk it all up to the drive of Kris Jenner, 57, the "momager" who's spun an empire from the fabric of reality TV. Total revenues exceeded \$65 million in 2010 and keep growing, according to The Hollywood Reporter.

That makes Jenner convincing evidence that skills developed on the home front translate nicely to the business world.

After a stint as a flight attendant, she married lawyer Robert Kardashian and, at age 22, gave birth to the first of her six children (three daughters and a son with Kardashian, whom she divorced in 1991 and who died in 2003, and her two daughters with second husband Bruce Jenner).

"I was the room mother and the Brownie leader and the soccer coach and the carpool driver. □

Justice, Louisiana Style



JOE NOCERA
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You can actually pinpoint the moment when the oil company BP began to get hosed in Louisiana: March 2012.

By then, BP had paid out around \$6.3 billion to some 220,000 people and businesses in the Gulf Coast region for damages suffered as a result of the 2010 oil spill. The money was distributed by Kenneth Feinberg, who had parceled out the 9/11 fund, and subsequently managed other victim compensation schemes. In return for the payouts, however, Feinberg had insisted that the victims sign documents agreeing not to sue BP - a main goal for the company, which was hoping to avoid the kind of drawn-out litigation that went on after the 1989 Exxon-Valdez spill. He had also insisted that the claims be for real, documented harm. Feinberg spent almost as much time turning down bogus claims as he did approving payments to victims. It almost goes without saying that the Louisiana plaintiffs' bar found such a scheme offensive. No litigation, after all, meant no lawyers' fees. Plus, the idea that you could have this giant company, so ripe for the plucking ... and then not pluck?

So a group of lawyers - known as the Plaintiffs' Steering Committee - persuaded their clients to skip the Feinberg process and sue BP. In March 2012, BP settled with those lawyers. As a condition for settling, the plaintiffs' lawyers insisted that Feinberg be replaced by Patrick Juneau, a good-ol'-boy plaintiffs' lawyer himself. BP also agreed to expand the potential universe of claimants, knowing full well that this would likely mean that people whose economic losses had no connection to the spill would receive "compensation." It estimated that the settlement would cost it an additional \$7.8 billion.

On Monday, however, before a federal appeals court in New Orleans, BP finally said "enough." Over the ensuing months, the company had come to realize that Juneau's interpretation of such concepts as "revenue" and "earnings" was, er, unique. So unique, in fact, that businesses that not only weren't affected by the BP disaster but hadn't even suffered losses were getting millions of dollars. Some had seen

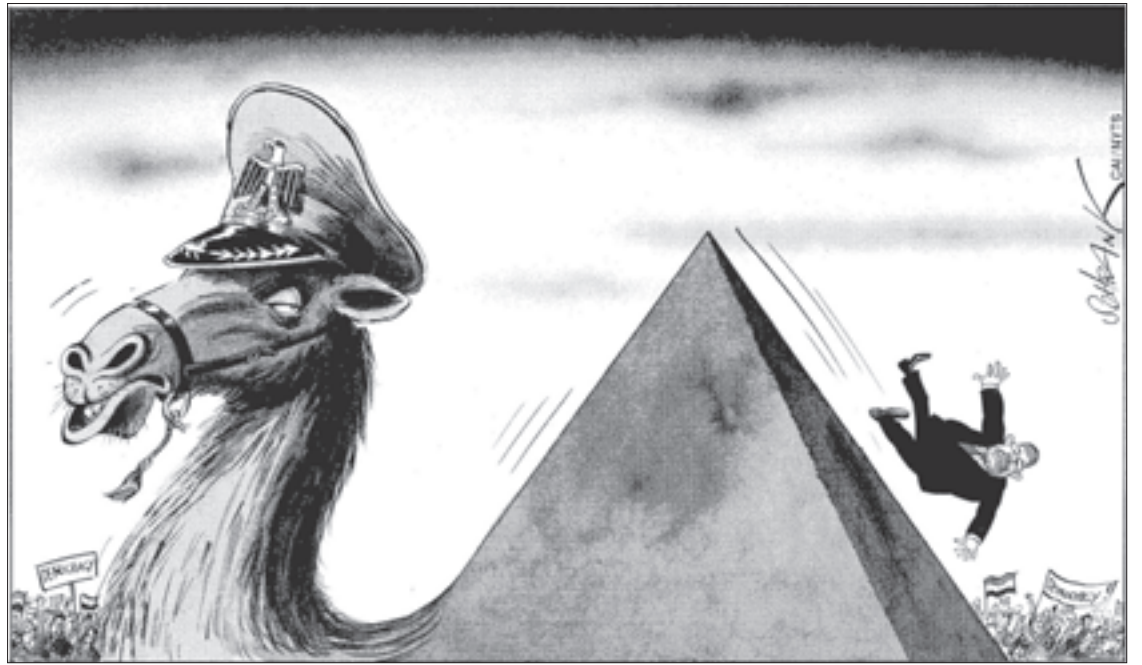
increased profits during the oil spill - and still got money. Lawyers started trolling for new clients, trumpeting the fact that claims didn't have to have any connection to the disaster. Suddenly, BP was facing the prospect of paying tens of billions of additional dollars to people who had no justifiable claim on the money.

When BP, which is based in London, complained to Judge Carl Barbier, who is overseeing all of the BP litigation in New Orleans, it got nowhere. Do I need to mention that Barbier is himself a former Louisiana plaintiffs' lawyer? In fact, he was once the president of Louisiana Trial Lawyers Association. How cozy is that?

I realize that many people don't much care that a multinational corporation responsible for a huge oil spill is being fleeced in Louisiana. But they should, for two reasons. First, although BP's negligence was unquestionably a significant reason for the spill, its response has been the opposite of the unfeeling corporation. It waived the \$75 million liability cap that federal law allows. It has spent, so far, \$14 billion cleaning up the Gulf and another \$11 billion settling claims of various sorts. It has taken its medicine willingly. Yet its efforts to do right by the Gulf region have only emboldened those who view it as a cash machine.

The next time a big company has an industrial accident, its board of directors is likely to question whether it really makes sense to "do the right thing" the way BP has tried to. Any board comparing BP's response to the gulf oil spill with Exxon-Mobil's response to the Exxon-Valdez spill is going to come to the obvious conclusion: Exxon-Mobil's litigation-to-the-death strategy - which ultimately cost it \$4 billion rather than the potential \$40 billion liability BP is now facing - was the right one. Is that really what we want as a country? There is one other point. I've written a number of columns about the importance of rule of law, especially in Russia, where it is so lacking, and where that lack is so detrimental to the Russian economy. A real rule of law gives businesses the confidence they need to make investments. If gives both parties faith that disputes will be settled fairly. It creates certainty.

We like to talk in the United States about our belief in the rule of law, but the truth is that what is going in Louisiana today is not all that different than when a corrupt Russian official creates a fake tax liability to line his pockets at the expense of some hapless company operating in Russia. "This is Louisiana, after all," a local plaintiffs' lawyer told Bloomberg BusinessWeek recently. "A big foreign company with deep pockets, and you're surprised there's a feeding frenzy? Come on, man." Vladimir Putin couldn't have put it better himself. □



Sex And The Sorriest Pols



FRANK BRUNI
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Virginia is for lovers. New York is for penitents.

There are two in the headlines, Anthony and now Eliot. "Here We Ho Again!" trumpeted The New York Post. If this doesn't save the tabloids, nothing will. But before we go too far in lumping the men together or draw too many conclusions about priapism and punishment, let's get our bearings. Eliot Spitzer doesn't have a quarter of the gall that Anthony Weiner does. He doesn't have an eighth of it. Out of office for more than five years, he isn't asking for a restoration of his prior glory. He isn't even asking for a particularly sexy job. Comptroller of New York City? Most voters don't know what that is or even if it's spelled correctly. It doesn't come with a mansion. It's not a ticket to parades. It's drudgery and decimal points. Audit till you drop.

Weiner, meantime, hadn't been gone from Congress for even two years when he announced his candidacy for mayor of the city, a job exponentially more influential than the one he'd never done especially well in the first place. He's angling for a gigantic pro-

motion. In the narrative he's constructed, his mortification has made him a new man, so we're supposed to give him an extra measure of our trust and hand him the reins of the most important and most complicated city in the country. I know we like our mayors brash, but we needn't accept delusional in the bargain.

In one recent poll he emerged as the front-runner for the Democratic nomination, and that, coupled with Mark Sanford's return to Congress from South Carolina, has prompted much commentary about the possibility that voters today are willing to look beyond sexual indiscretions.

But voters have long done so. A sex scandal didn't topple Barney Frank back in the 1980s, Bill Clinton in the 1990s or David Vitter, the senator from Louisiana, who had his own prostitute problems in 2007. And Sanford, a Republican in a vividly red state, had a significant built-in advantage over his Democratic opponent. He benefited less from forgiveness than from partisanship.

As for Weiner, he has nonpareil name recognition in an overcrowded field of unconvincing rivals and in an era when the line between famous and infamous is blurrier than ever. All that he may be in the process of proving is that celebrity, not virtue, is its own reward.

It's being said that he and Spitzer are seeking "redemption." For the purposes of this duo and this election, let's be careful with that noun. While Spitzer is indeed considering an assignment inferior to his last office, his years in political exile weren't dedicated to the "public service" whose clarion call he says he cannot resist. They were warm baths in his own voice: a show on CNN, followed by one on Current TV. Those gigs are over; he's adrift. What he's seeking is relevance.

Ditto for Weiner, who also didn't use his timeout in any way that showed a greater

devotion to the public good than to his own. He sought to convert his political connections into quick profits. He plotted his audaciously hasty return. And here he is in his colorful, look-at-me trousers, with his colorful, look-at-me debate antics, weathering the jokes, enduring us naysayers. Better to be ridiculed than to be ignored.

Already there's chatter about whose infidelities are more forgivable: Spitzer's, which were arguably a crime, or Weiner's, which were creepier? This misses a crucial point. Both men fell as spectacularly as they did not because they got caught with their pants down but because none of their colleagues liked them much even with their pants up.

They didn't have Clinton's reservoirs of charm or good will to tap. Spitzer, though an effective attorney general, was shaping up to be a self-righteous, self-defeating disaster of a governor, and Weiner was a sound bite and makeup kit in search of the nearest camera. Few people had a huge stake or interest in propping up either of them, in doing damage control.

That's the part of their pasts - their particular brands of abrasiveness, the peculiar contours of their egos - more relevant to the present than their libidos. That's what we should focus on, especially when it comes to Weiner. Spitzer's at least overqualified for the post he wants, and his wanting it amounts to an appropriate pantomime of humility.

Weiner can't manage that much. At a high school in Queens recently, he spoke of how setbacks make the man: polio for FDR, imprisonment for Mandela. "Would they have been so great had they not had those obstacles?" he asked. It's hard to shake the surreal sense that he was putting himself in that company. Sexting, apartheid: just different speed bumps on the road to power. □

In Health-Conscious City, Limits On Group Exercise

JACK HEALY

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DENVER - The Saturday morning workout crew had survived a grueling round of push-ups and sprints, crunches and lunges under a broiling sun in the heart of the gentrifying downtown here. But as they got ready for the day's sweaty coup de grâce - balancing acrobatically on their hands - they were alerted that their exercise routine had run afoul of the rules. "Excuse me, you can't be here," said a manager from a nearby condominium office. He pointed across the outdoor plaza to a sign prohibiting group exercise. "It's clearly marked."

Maybe it was the sun, or the heat, or the 100 sit-ups they had just done, but the exercisers were incredulous. They were getting kicked out of the plaza? For working out? "Really?" asked Chris Lindley, a gym owner who was leading the boot camp.

Really. In Denver, one of the healthiest cities in America, fitness fans are fuming over rules from the city and private officials that restrict group exercise in parks and open spaces.

"You can smoke pot, but you can't exercise," Lindley said, as the scent of a newly legalized substance drifted past. "This is Colorado."

A skirmish over exercise in the public square seems fitting in a place where people spend more on road bikes than on their cars, and Lycra attire is the unofficial uniform of the weekend.

Officials and neighbors say they are not trying to discourage fitness, but they say the sweaty throngs can be a nuisance, monopolizing sidewalks and fields. They say personal trainers and fitness centers are taking unfair advantage of taxpayer-financed public spaces, rather than paying for gym space.

Trainers and the fitness mavens who assemble in Denver's parks roll their eyes at those arguments. It's summertime, they say. And in a country battling obesity

and high rates of heart disease and diabetes, they say, governments should be doing everything possible to get people up and moving.

on and get out the door, people should be clapping."

The city rules are clear: No commercial activity without a permit. Histori-

suicide sprints and crab-walking up and down hills until their lungs ache.

On weekdays, there are the moms. Last year, Car-en Elenowitz took over

from the parks, but they said the city relented after a few weeks, saying they could temporarily return while park officials figured out a way to regulate the



Participants exercise during a Stroller Strides class for mothers at Central Park in Denver's Stapleton neighborhood. In Denver, one of the healthiest cities in America, fitness enthusiasts are upset over city rules that restrict group exercise and other commercial activity in public parks and open spaces.
(Matthew Staver/The New York Times)

"It's just ridiculous," said Chris Lasater, 46, who joined a fitness boot camp

cally, those rules mostly applied to concerts, festivals, races and food vendors.



A sign restricting group exercise near Commons Park in Denver.
(Matthew Staver/The New York Times)

one Saturday morning near Commons Park downtown. "Nobody needs any discouragement to get active and healthy. If somebody can put their shorts

But in the past few years, the growing popularity of group training programs like CrossFit has filled the parks with clumps of people doing yoga, running

a business called Stroller Strides, which runs daily workout seminars for mothers with young children. They jog around the park while pushing their strollers, do squats while cooing to their infants and strengthen their quads while singing "If You're Happy and You Know It." She charges mothers \$55 for a month of classes. Last year, after her community newspaper ran a story about her business, Elenowitz said she got a call from Denver Parks and Recreation informing her that, because she did not have a license, she could not run her workouts in Central Park in the Stapleton neighborhood.

"I went home and cried," she said. "It's not like we're bumping into other groups. We're not going to play chicken with bikes. We're not going to push other people off the path."

Other fitness groups were told they had to decamp

exercisers. After months of meetings with trainers, neighbors and park officials, they have devised a plan that would create new a new system of fees and permits.

People will still be able to get together to play Frisbee or soccer. But if money changes hands, said Jeff Green, a Denver Parks spokesman, "you need to have a permit."

The City Council is expected to take up the details of the permit system this month. Amy Fuller, who runs several fitness groups for new mothers, said the fees could cost her as much as \$1,200 a month to use the city's busiest parks at the peak times of day.

"They totally priced us out," she said. She has relocated some of her classes from western Denver to the nearby suburb of Edgewater, and she said officials there were happy to have them. □